Contemplation

Souvenir Book

Eastercon 2007

Chester, April 6th to 9th

Credits

Committee for Convoy (original Eastercon for 2007)

Tim Kirk	Chairman and Programme
Roger Burton West	Treasurer and Membership
Chris Bell	Hotel Liaison and Membership
Sue Edwards	Guest Liaison
Dave Devereux	Security
Harry Payne	Publicity and Newsletter
Guests	Judith Clute, Peter Dickinson, Robin McKinley, Sharyn November, TAFF delegate

Committee for Contemplation (replacement Eastercon for 2007)

Chris O'Shea	Co-Chair and Instigator: Ops/Tech
Fran Dowd	Co-Chair and Sofa: Programme
Hayley	Site
Harry Payne	Official Cuddly Toy / Convoy Representative
John Dowd	Treasurer
Vince Docherty	Financial Advisor
Steve Lawson	Memberships

Photos for this Book were supplied by the following, not in any order whatsoever: Paul Raven aka The Armchair Anarchist, Nikkums, Ian Whates, Steve Cooper, John Wilson, Serena, DougS, John Dowd, David Wake, NoJay Sneddon.

Material from The Navel, the Contemplation newsletter, re-produced by kind permission of the Editorial Team, the Plokta Cabal. The newsletters are available in full in pdf format from www.plokta.com/navel/

The commissioning editor for the Book is Steve Cooper.

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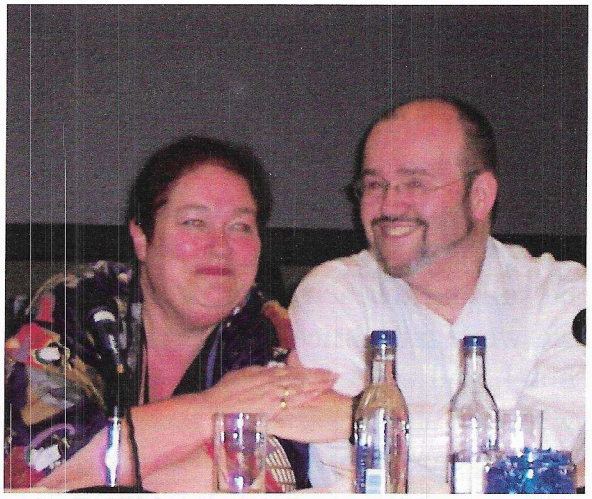
From the Chairs



This is the bit where, as co-chair and initial instigator/mug, I'm supposed to say that this was a team effort and how everyone pulled together and saved the Eastercon. Well, that's definitely true, but it's also the story of how a lot of individual heroes (some of whom will remain unthanked by name, for which I am sorry) managed to pull together a fantastic and fun weekend (and yes, a *real* Eastercon) in a few short months.

From the individuals who took part in the initial hotel search to the mighty efforts of one woman in contacting every hotel in the UK that had a function room and some bedrooms, heroes all. The team of techies who each dug into their spare rooms and garages and found (or personally bought) far more tech than we'd ever be able to use; the newsletter team, the green room team, ops, publications, membership, finance, artshow, media programme, the play, the guided tours, the programme team, the website, the dealers room and every other part of the con ... together **we** produced a fantastic convention, thanks to the generosity of spirit and willingness to step in when needed of all of you lot.

Convoy did a fantastic job of trying to put together a large scale Eastercon (lots of great guests, a masquerade etc.) in one year, and for many reasons it became clear they wouldn't be able to run the Eastercon they had offered and so they refunded the membership money. It took courage to stand up and bid in the first place, and it took courage and a good lump of common sense to step down when they realised what the situation was.

It took courage and a good lump of stupidity to stand up at Novacon and say "Yes, I'll organise a convention for next Easter" ... thankfully Fortune favours the prepared, so I already knew that I had a bunch of people eager to help out ... and that there were "the usual suspects" that would almost certainly come forward and do those essential (but often underappreciated) jobs ...

... what I didn't expect was for Fran to offer to co-chair (which I have no doubt saved my sanity, and my employment, and lead to a far better convention!) and for Hayley to do such a great job with finding the site. You can never expect miracles, you just have to be properly grateful when they happen! And with Judith and Richard providing the credit card processing and hosting the website, and Steve Lawson doing membership and ... I really could not have picked a better team of people to run a

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convention, and they made me look good!

There were hiccups, and things that could have gone better, and the stresses that were put on many of us, well, I'm glad that we all seem to still be talking to each other! But I think we were fantastically lucky with the hotel, and while I wouldn't want to do without guests and masquerade every year, I think we demonstrated you can have a good Eastercon as long as you have a good programme, a good site and good friends.

In conclusion, first I have to thank all of you for coming and taking part. Without you lot this convention would have cost me a lot more! Secondly I'd like to thank the other conventions and organisations that donated money, equipment and freely gave advice and support. But mostly I'd like to thank the volunteers, the staff and the rest of the committee without whom the con would have been in my back garden with the video programme in my living room!

Thanks for making it a fantastically enjoyable Easter and I look forward to seeing you all at Heathrow next year!

Chris O'Shea (The Magician)

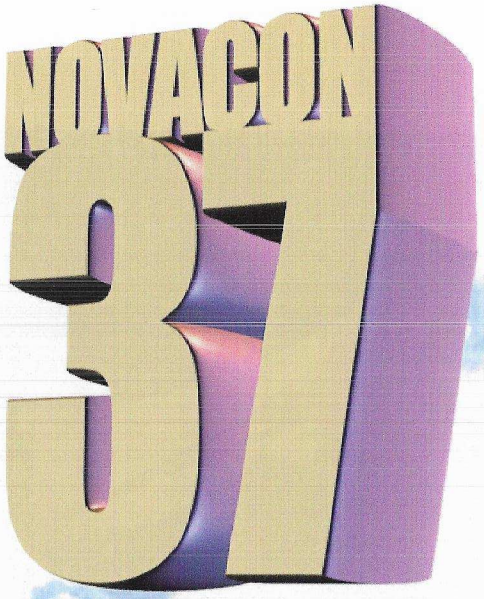
Wot He Sed. I don't like naming individual people because I always forget somebody important, but I am going to mention the stunning support I got from the Programme SubGroup of John Richards, Peter Harrow, Hayley, and the Official Cuddly Toy. Both in terms of planning and on the day programme operations. Kari and her Green Room team were amazing. And everyone who was on programme, or contributed to the planning. If I emailed someone about being on an item, and they didn't feel able to do it, they almost always suggested someone else who could fit the bill. When we posted drafts to the web, I got loads of constructive comments, direct and via Live Journal. People who weren't going to be able to come to the convention at all were chiming in with ideas and contact details. Some participants had initial ideas for us to build on, some came with whole programme items ready to go, even tech. Mark Slater took on the co-ordination of the whole video programme, with Official Cuddly Toy looking after the Kids TV bit.

There were some things we made a decision early on that we just couldn't do, but that was actually quite liberating. James Bacon has written a piece for this book about how he feels about that and how it's being incorporated into LX in 2009.

It was a shame that in the end none of Convoy's guests were able to attend, but it did make programming easier, as well as giving the Treasurer less to worry about. John had enough on his plate as it was.

Thanks to everyone who attended and contributed, especially to those who Spent Money in the hotel and enabled us to meet our financial commitments. And final thanks to our predecessor Eastercons, Paragon2 and Concussion, who contributed pass along funds.

Fran Dowd (The Sofa)

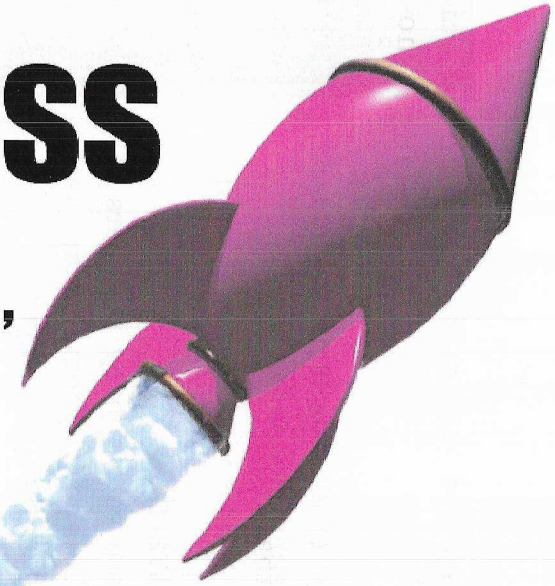


Bentley, near Walsall

2 - 4 November 2007

Celebrating 70 years of British sf cons

GoH: Charles Stross



Send £38.00 to 379 Myrtle Road, Sheffield, S2 3HQ - or check out our website at www.novacon37.org.uk

Awards

A number of awards were presented at Contemplation, as follows:

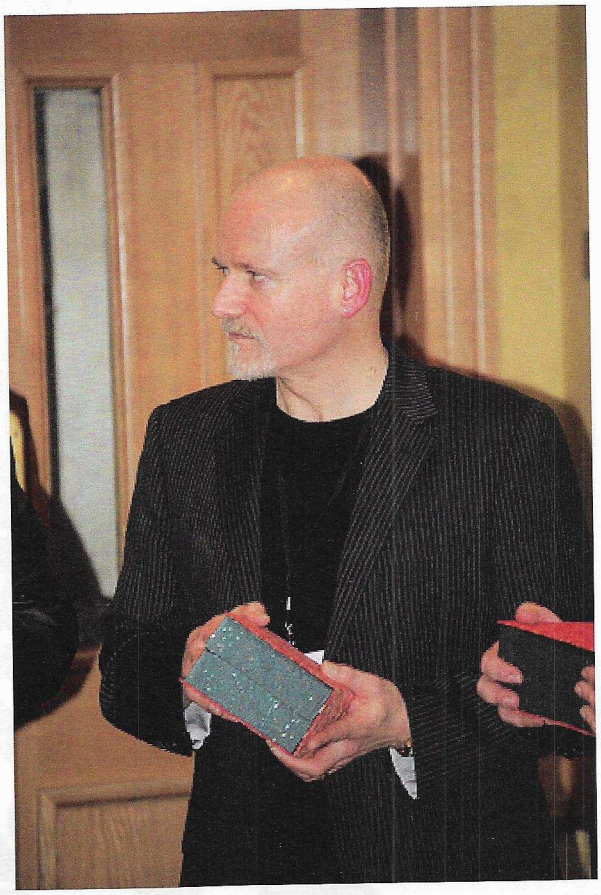
BSFA Awards

These were voted on by members of the BSFA and Contemplation, and presented on Saturday night.

Best Artwork

Angelbot

Fangorn (Cover of *Time Pieces*, ed. Ian Whates)

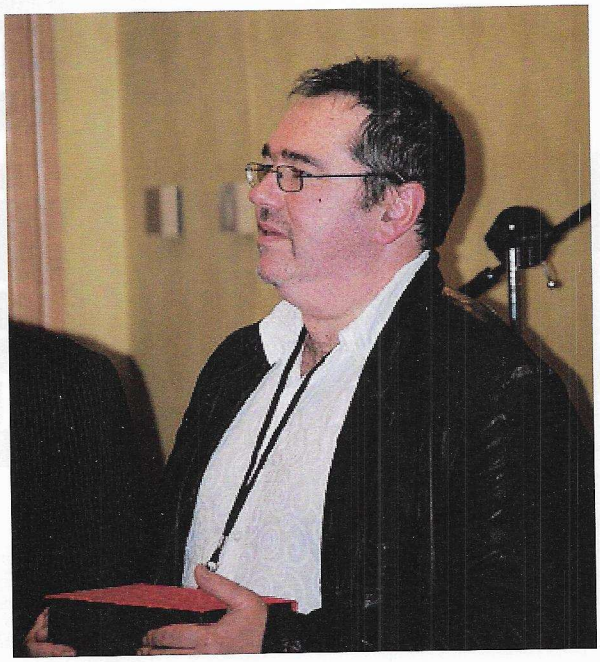


Best Novel

End of the World Blues

Jon Courtenay Grimwood

(Gollancz)



Best Short Fiction

The Djinn's Wife

Ian McDonald

(*Asimov's Science Fiction*, June)

Best Hall Costume

Jess Bennett

Doc Weir

This award is given by popular acclamation at Eastercons. It was set up in 1963 in memory of fan Doc Weir. Weir was a relative newcomer to fandom, he discovered it late in life - but in the short time of his involvement he was active in a number of fannish areas, including being secretary of the recently formed BSFA, and working on conventions. In recognition of this, the Award is sometimes seen as the "Good Guy" Award; something for "The Unsung Heroes"

Fandom needs volunteers. Conventions, clubs, fanzines - they all require an extensive workforce, people who do "stuff" for no financial reward. Some people have a high-profile role but there are many who don't, whose involvement goes almost unnoticed and may even be taken for granted. In some respects, the ideal Doc Weir Award candidate is the sort of person who doesn't immediately spring to mind but makes perfect sense if somebody else suggests them.

This year's winner is Sue Edwards, who was presented with the trophy by last year's winner, Steve Lawson.

Phlosque

This award is presented by SMS for the piece of artwork that best embodies the evanescent essence of phlosque - there's a looong definition at www.conbledegook.org.uk

This year the award went to Anne Sudworth. As Navel put it: *"The winning work was that really lovely picture of a fairy with a tree and the moon, which stands out head and shoulders above her other work (but SMS can't remember what it's called)."*

The Programme

This is based on the programme as it appeared in the ReadMe, with all the changes I was aware of - but I know there were occasional last minute substitutions, and if I have omitted you, please accept my apologies. We only cancelled one item, and swapped a couple more due to travel arrangements for key participants.

Fran Dowd (The Sofa)

Friday

Panellists and Moderators - how does it all work?

Kings Fri 14:30 - 15:30

A guide to being a panellist or a moderator, especially if you're new to this sort of thing. Explains the difference between the roles, and what Green Room's for.

John Richards, Fran Dowd

Beginner's Guide to Eastercon

Roodee Fri 14:30 - 15:30

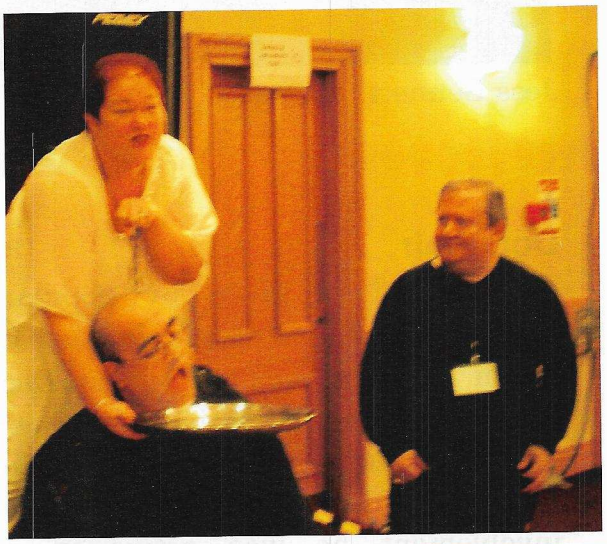
New to this sort of thing? Come along and talk to some Eastercon attenders old and new about what you can expect.

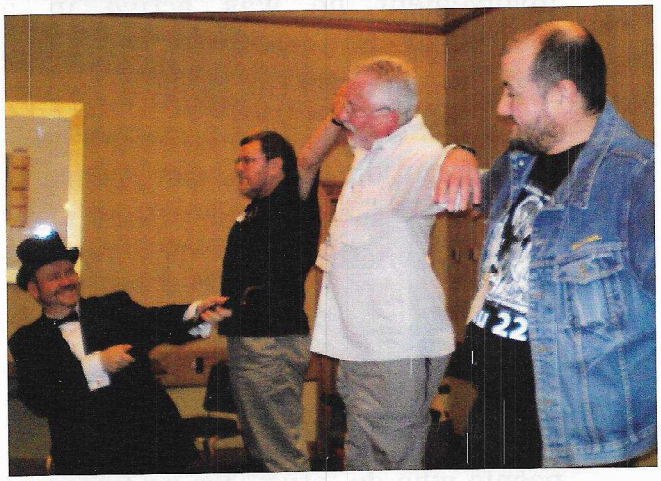
John Coxon, Flick, The Magician

Opening Ceremony

Kings Fri 15:30 - 16:30

Stand up on stage and say welcome to the con. Accepted wisdom is that this gives those who are not familiar with things a chance to identify the committee and thus know who to avoid and to whom to suck up. The following mixer games were



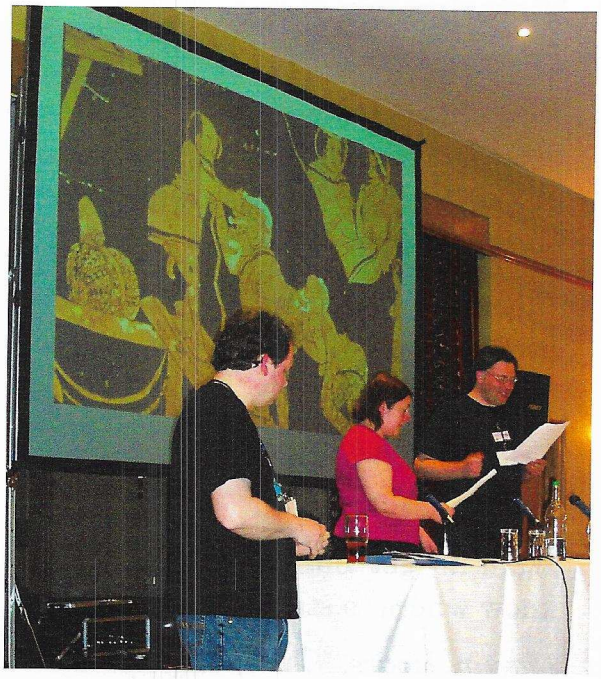


hosted by Teledu, who divided us into black and white teams (led by Chris and Fran respectively) and kept us on our toes.

Greek Theatre

Charles 1 Fri 17:00 - 18:30

Tony Keen repeats his audience participation introduction to the conventions of Greek drama. Only this time the bits from Comedy will be Funny.



Climate change - fans and carbon footprints

Roodee Fri 17:00 - 18:30

What can we do as a community do to reduce our carbon footprint? Should we consider offsetting funds to match air travel for the fan funds, for example? Or are we just kowtowing to the latest puritan fad?

Pat McMurray, Judith Proctor, Dave Clements, Charles Stross

Trailer Park

Christleton Fri 17:00 - 18:30

A collection of trailers for films, TV, games, software, music - whatever we can find that's going to be aimed at you in the next year.

John Richards, Hayley

Not The Oscars

Charles 1 Fri 18:30 - 20:00

The Oscars list this year isn't big on SF - what should have been in there?

Dave Hicks, Nick Gibbins, Zara Baxter, Andrew Ducker, Lilian Edwards

What makes a good book review?

Edward 1 Fri 18:30 - 20:00

What makes a good book review? Do you read book reviews? Do you take any notice of them? Do writers and publishers take notice of them? Do they serve the reader, the industry, or no one at all? Do you give a flying squid?

Paul Raven a.k.a. Armchair Anarchist, Jon Courtenay Grimwood, Niall Harrison, Penny Hill, John Jarrold

Bug's Taff Trip

Christleton Fri 18:30 - 20:00

Bridget Bradshaw presents a slideshow report of her TAFF trip last year.

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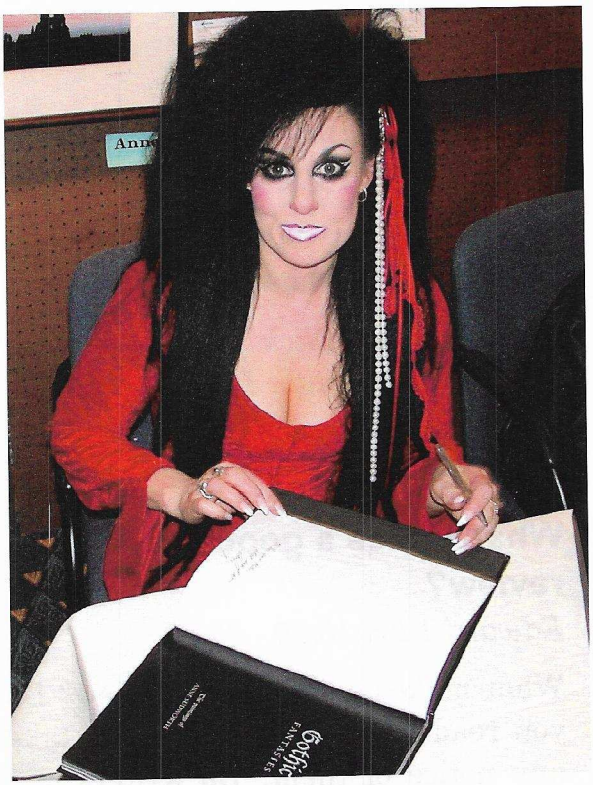
Book Launch - Anne Sudworth

Malpas Fri 19:30 - 20:30

The Art Show officially opens with the launch of *The Gothic Fantasies and Painting of Anne Sudworth.*



The Great Clomping Foot of Nerdism

Charles 1 Fri 20:00 - 21:00

M John Harrison sparked debate with his statement that "Every moment of a science fiction story must represent the triumph of writing over worldbuilding", that "...worldbuilding is not technically necessary. It is the great clomping foot of nerdism. It is the attempt to exhaustively survey a place that isn't there. A good writer would never try to do that, even with a place that is there."

Tanya Brown, Richard Morgan, Graham Sleight, Farah, John Richards

Superscience in the Victorian era

Edward 1 Fri 20:00 - 21:00

How did contemporary SF handle the explosion in science and technology in the 19th century, and how has it been portrayed since?

Nikkums, Marcus Rowland, Dave Lally, SMS

Conrunning 101

Roodee Fri 20:00 - 21:00

Want to get into conrunning? Don't know where to start?

Martin Hoare, Chris, Hayley, Simon Bradshaw, Mad Elf

Pub Quiz - hosted by Marcus Streets

Charles 1 Fri 21:00 - 22:00

Continuity of Identity

Edward 1 Fri 21:00 - 22:00

Questions about continuity of identity have long intrigued philosophers and psychologists, but they have a habit of cropping up in SF too. Is The Doctor still the same Doctor after a regeneration? Is an uploaded mind the same person as its flesh-and-blood predecessor, or just a really good copy? And is a Star Fleet transporter room more like a bus depot – or an execution chamber?

Colin Gavaghan, Richard Morgan, Chris Beckett, Fran Dowd, Charles Stross

Artetechs

Roodee Fri 21:00 - 22:00

Technology has changed the way we interact with Art. Some changes are obvious (CGI film effects, opera surtitles, Ipods) some we hardly notice (theatre sound and lighting, comic strips). The panel discusses the impact of technology on art in the real world and speculates on possible art forms of the future.

Clare Goodall, Steve Davies, Colin Fine, Dave Clements

Gytha North Memorial Drunken Rabble Pick Play or Pass Filking Event

Christleton Fri 21:00 - 22:00

Gytha North was a multi-talented and inspirational fan, who sadly passed away since the last Eastercon. Please drop in and join in a rousing chorus to her memory.

Life on Mars - wtf?

Charles 1 Fri 22:00 - 23:00

Series Two is ending, and there will definitely be a resolution. But what will it be? and more importantly, when will they show it? (10/4/07 9pm BBC2!)

Simon Bradshaw, DC, Wendy Bradley, Lilian Edwards

Current SF - a Fireside Chat

Edward 1 Fri 22:00 - 23:00

Paul Cornell, author and scriptwriter, chats with Dave Bradley, editor of SFX, about the current world of SF.

Dave Bradley, Paul Cornell

X-Factor SF

Roodee Fri 22:00 - 23:00

Got a piece of sf or fantasy writing you think has the X-Factor? bring it along and read a few lines for our judges to criticise. The audience will vote on the finalists ...

Nick Mills, Vincent Docherty, Alice Lawson, Tanya Brown

Web 2.0

Christleton Fri 22:00 - 23:00

Is this just the latest in a series of buzzwords, and just as meaningless? Or is it actually an important change in the way in which we are going to use the Internet in the future? This session looks at the phenomena of Web 2.0 and cuts to the heart of the matter, with an overview and

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suggestions of resources you can use to actively change the way in which you use the Internet. Forever.

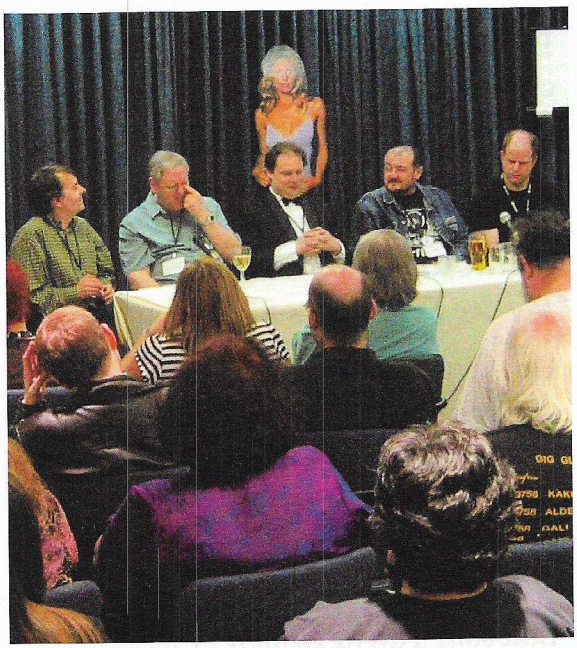
Phil Bradley

I'm Sorry I Haven't an SF-ing Clue

Roodee Fri 23:00 - 00:00

The fannish version of the Radio 4 panel game, hosted by Tony Keen.

Mike Scott, Ian Sorensen, Tony Keen, DougS, Simon Bradshaw



Saturday

Shooting Chester - led by Sue Jones

Outside Sat 08:45 - 10:00

Anyone who wants to come 'Shooting Chester' with Sue Jones, should please be at the main hotel entrance at 8:45 am sharp, with their cameras charged and loaded.

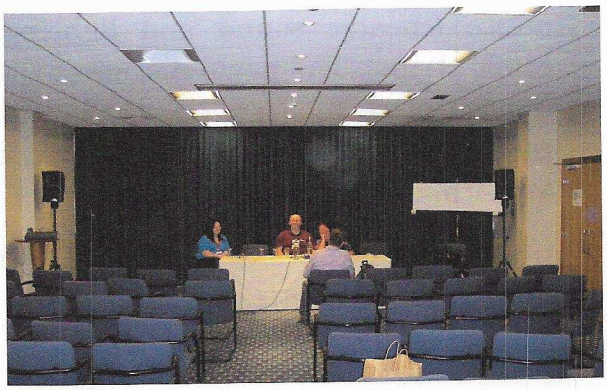
"Not quite sure where we'll go -- probably up to the cathedral and back if fine and into the market hall if wet. Return to the hotel by ten. Non-photographic hangers-on are welcome provided they don't get bored. 'Interesting picture' stuff rather than tourist snaps. Also, if you want to go INTO the cathedral, please note that there is an admission fee."

This was a very popular event, and a lot of the results were posted on the net. Try flickr and look for Chester, Eastercon, 2007.

Morning Feedback

Roodee Sat 09:00 - 10:00

Anything going wrong for you? If it's something the hotel, Ops or Registration can't handle, come and tell us. But no-one did, only James came to see what people had to say.



The Magician, Fran Dowd, Hayley

What Does This Knob Do?

Charles 1 Sat 10:00 - 11:00

What Does This Knob Do? How to run a sound desk.

Nolley, Clare Goodall

Climate Change - planning our environment

Edward 1 Sat 10:00 - 11:00

Can we design our living environment to reduce the effects of climate change? and should we try?

Peter Harrow, Peter Westhead, Nikkums, Judith Proctor, John Dallman

GMTV

Roodee Sat 10:00 - 11:00

Read the best bits out of today's papers, discuss the programme for the day, yesterday's restaurant and shopping finds - generally get yourself geared up to face the day

John Richards

Space - Inge Heyer

Charles 1 Sat 11:00 - 12:00

Inge spoke at Novacon 2001, and at Worldcon 2005, on the Hubble.

These Are Not the Tits You're Looking For

Edward 1 Sat 11:00 - 12:00

A follow-on item from Concussion last year, discussing fandom as a safe space for any sex or gender, what to do about inappropriate behaviour.

Simon Bradshaw, Claire Brialey, James, Liz Batty, Fran Dowd

Flash Fiction Workshop 1

Roodee Sat 11:00 - 12:00

This workshop won't tell you how to write, what to write, or anything at all about writing. It'll just get you to do it. No experience required, just bring a pen and some paper (or a laptop if you really must, but we can't be responsible for providing power for everyone).

Kate Bodley

Eastercon Identity

Charles 1 Sat 12:00 - 13:30

Over the last couple of years there's

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been a lot of discussion about what Eastercon is and should be.

A moderated discussion where everyone can contribute.

Judith Proctor, Peter, James, Vincent Docherty, Greg Pickersgill

BSFA Awards Taster

Edward 1 Sat 12:00 - 13:30

Readings by the authors (or their chosen readers), from the BSFA novels shortlist. Just in case you haven't got around to reading them all yet.

Liz Williams, Jo Fletcher, (GOLLANCZ), Jon Courtenay Grimwood, Ian Snell, Farah

George Hay Lecture: The Braintrix

Kings Sat 14:00 - 15:00

by Dr Guillaume Thierry. "I will demonstrate that what we take for "reality" is nothing other than an illusion constructed by our brain. Based on a series of visual illusions, considerations on animal perception and review of patients with brain lesions, I will show how the world in which we live is a mental representation which can be deceived and distorted. The immediate philosophical and fictional consequences of this scientific fact will be considered in closing."

Photos of this event, although there were many submitted, were completely impossible to reproduce. If you want more information or to try some of the experiments, visit

www.bbc.co.uk/wales/northwest/fun/pages/brainillusionteaser.shtml

Dr Guillaume Thierry, Simon Bradshaw

LJ isn't just a blog

Roodee Sat 14:00 - 15:00

How do you use LJ - is it a diary, or is it now standing in for emails, phone calls, is it the first thing you think of to get in touch with an individual or a group? With personal emails so often caught in spam filters, is this method now more reliable? If you haven't got one - why not?

Max, Lilian Edwards, James, Julia Daly

Universal Donor

Kings Sat 15:00 - 16:30

Is it time for science fiction to stop bleeding? Other genres - fantasy, technothriller, historical - have been recently reinvigorated by taking a science-fictional approach: the New Weird in fantasy, the recent work of (e.g.) Greg Bear, the resurgence of

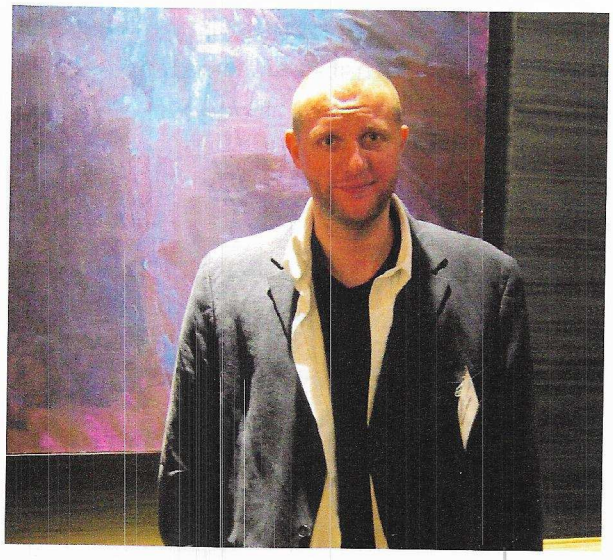
alternate history and time travel. Authors identified with SF have 'bled' towards the mainstream or other genres. Science fiction has become the default multimedia landscape. Is SF making a blood donation - or bleeding to death?

Paul Cornell, Ian Watson, Jo Fletcher (GOLLANCZ), Freda Warrington, Graham Sleight

Komodo Dragons

Roodee Sat 15:00 - 16:30

Kevin Buley, Curator of Lower Vertebrates & Invertebrates, on Komodo Dragons, the recent hatchings and conservation at Chester Zoo generally.



Chester Zoo also provided discount vouchers for convention members, they're still valid ...

An Inconvenient Truth

Christleton Sat 15:00 - 16:30

Film showing: Former Vice President Al Gore presents a compelling look at the state of global warming in the fascinating and startling documentary.

Un-American Futures

Kings Sat 16:30 - 18:00

SF has traditionally had a white western bias, in literature and in the fanbase. That's changing rapidly. British SF has been described as "the most dynamic movement in global

science fiction of the past decade and arguably one of the most important forces in world culture during that period" - why us and not the Americans?

Jon Courtenay Grimwood, Ian McDonald, Charles Stross, John Richards, Conor Kostick

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Belly Dancing Workshop - led by Sue Mason

Roodee Sat 16:30 - 18:00

Anyone welcome, male or female, no audience, you come, you dance, wear loose comfortable clothing, hippy skirts are groovy and scarves for round your hips, but t-shirt and jeans will do at a pinch.

Urban Exploring

Christleton Sat 16:30 - 18:00

What is 'urban exploring'? It's the art of spending time in abandoned buildings, be they industrial, commercial, medical, military, educational – in fact, any building that isn't being used any longer. This programme item will look at how you go about it, where to do, what to do and what not to do and so on, with some photographs of Phil and Jill's explorations – including an insane asylum.

Jill Bradley, Phil Bradley

Battle of the Butlers

Roodee Sat 18:00 - 19:00

The great butlers, gentlemen's gentlemen, valets - the balloon is overloaded, who will be first to dive to their doom? And last to remain?

Fran Dowd, Malcolm Davies (Penfold), Michael Abbott (Igor), KEN SHINN (Alfred), Peter Harrow (Jeeves), Steve Lawson (Zathras), John Dowd (Jeannie)

Dr Who

Kings Sat 18:55 - 19:40

Don't be late, it starts at five to seven!

Transitional Comics

Roodee Sat 20:00 - 21:00

The panel looks at the changing face of graphic novels, and argues the case for their current favourites.

James, Richard Morgan, Michael Abbott, Tony Keen

Mine Your Own Business

Christleton Sat 20:00 - 22:00

Film - Mine Your Own Business: A Documentary About the Dark Side of Environmentalism, produced by film-makers Phelim McAleer and Ann McElhinney, which investigates controversial proposed mining projects in impoverished villages. Their main focus in the film is the village of Rosia Montana in Romania. There, McAleer and McElhinney interview western environmentalists who oppose the project as well as the local people that are in favour of the project. The movie portrays western environmentalists as wealthy elites who are working counter to the interests of the local people

BSFA Awards

Kings Sat 21:00 - 22:00

Presentation of the BSFA Awards.

John Jarrold, Liz Williams, Jon Courtenay Grimwood, Ian McDonald, Ian Snell

Teledu Challenge

Roodee Sat 21:00 - 22:00

The Bible, vomit, great works of art, SF and sex. All these and many more are subjects in the Teledu Challenge, an exercise in Creative Stupidity. Take part, act fast, think sideways and you may win the Teledu Crown!

Jim de Liscard, Chris, Meike, Jess

bad people bad sex bad wolf

Roodee Sat 22:00 - 23:00

Torchwood billed itself as "adult", was it? what actually made it so? Why is Stargate on at 8 pm and Battlestar Galactica at 9? What does "adult" really mean?

Kari, Penny Hill, John Richards, Dougs, Deborah J. Miller

Karaoke Disco

Kings Sat 22:00 - 01:00

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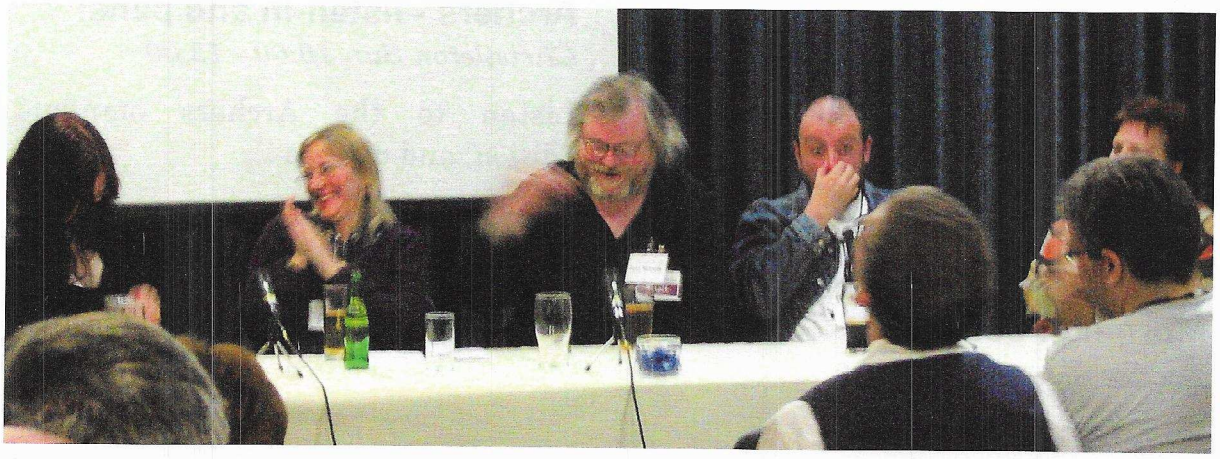


(Continued from page 17)

Filking Time

Christleton Sat 22:00 - 01:00

Bring your instruments and voices for informal filking.

Blake's 7 Wobblevision

Meet in Con Bar - Sat 22:00 - 00:00

There will be a Blake's 7 Wobblevision event, meet in the convention bar.

The final wobblevision can be seen at www.blakes-7.co.uk/wobblevision/moloch/moloch.shtml

Steve Rogerson

First Fumblings

Roodee Sat 23:00 - 00:00

What is this slash stuff anyway?

Dougs, Serena Culfeather, Fran Dowd, Elanor

Sunday

Songs of Praise

Kings Sun 09:00 - 10:00

If you'd rather stay in the con than go to church, or just feel nostalgic for primary school assemblies, come and join in. Musicians and lead singers especially welcome.

Dougs

Morning Feedback 2

Roodee Sun 09:00 - 10:00

Fran Dowd, The Magician

Fireworks

Kings Sun 10:00 - 11:00

Not the real thing, but as close as we could get! Martin Hoare covers the basic types of fireworks and what they do, dipping a toe in the water about chemistry and construction and how to put together and fire a display without blowing up Griff Rhys Jones (as seen on BBC2).

Easter Bonnet Parade

Roodee Sun 10:00 - 11:00

Bring along your Easter Bonnets - there are no limitations on design other than the general convention and hotel policies on weapons, explosives, and general public health and safety.

There will be prizes, including vouchers from The Hat Company shop in Chester who are kindly sponsoring this event.

Best in Show went to Peter Harrow for the hatching dragon egg bonnet, modelled by Clara.

Judges: SMS, Margaret Austin,

MC: Alice Lawson

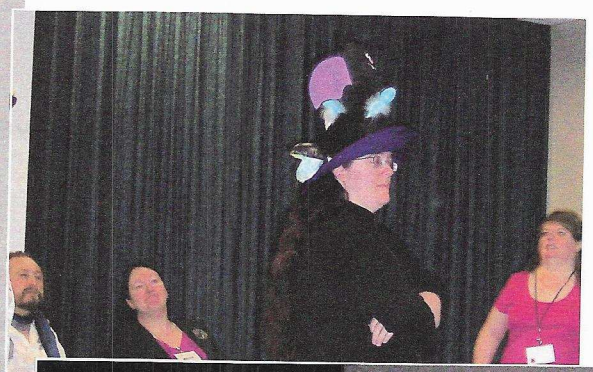
Archers - listen-in and panel

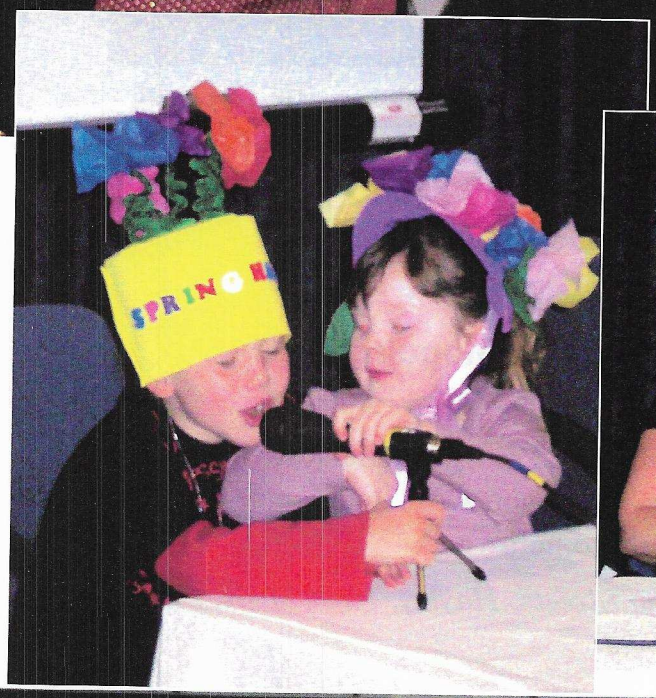
Christleton Sun 10:00 - 12:00

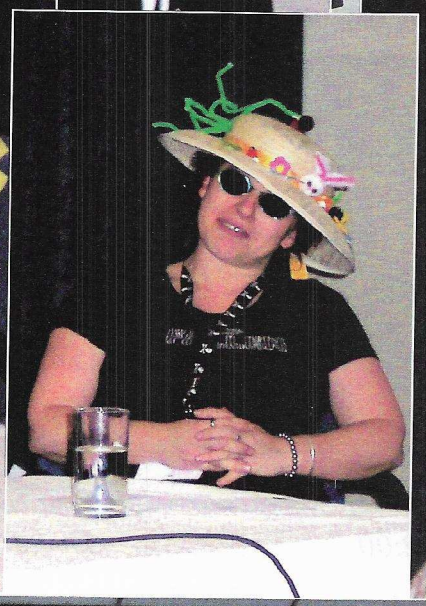
Listen to the Archers omnibus edition, and discuss ...

Peter Harrow

(Continued on page 20)







(Continued from page 18)

Is UK SF publishing overly masculine?

Kings Sun 11:00 - 12:00

"I hear that a number of women writers have felt that the atmosphere in the UK is very hard science, hard men at present -- not that all the editors of male or whatever, but that the culture seems to be for quite macho type books." True?

Graham Sleight, Jaine Fenn, Jo Fletcher (GOLLANCZ), Liz Williams, Gareth L. Powell, John Richards

Local fan groups

Roodee Sun 11:00 - 12:00

Do you run or want to start a local fan group? Some people who already do so talk about their experiences and swap ideas. If you've got or want to find a local group, Wilf James has a weblisting at:

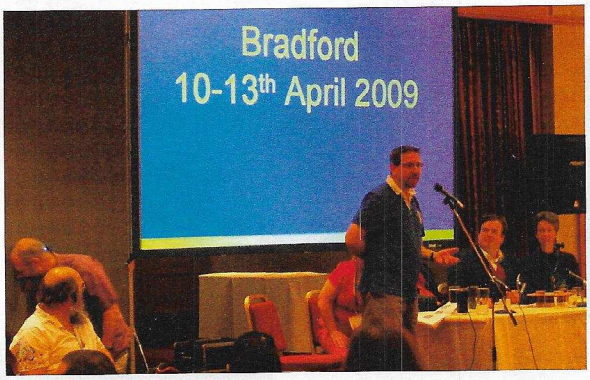
homepage.ntlworld.com/wilf.james/sf-clubs.htm

½r, DC, Fran Dowd, Mark Young

Bid Session

Kings Sun 12:00 - 13:30

Your chance to elect the Eastercon for 2009.



Which turned out to be LX in Bradford, co-chaired by James Bacon and Peter Harrow.

Chaired by Judith Proctor

Library Cataloguing

Roodee Sun 13:00 - 14:00

Library Thing, Delicious Library, specialist software, what else is out there to help you?

Rae Streets, Hayley, Nick Mills, Fran Dowd

Walking Roman Chester

Outside Sun 13:00 - 15:00

In a moment of seriousness, Tony Keen leads a walk around the sites of Roman Chester. Numbers limited to 25, you can sign up at Registration.

Glorifying Terrorism

Charles 1 Sun 14:00 - 15:30

"Glorifying Terrorism" is a recently published anthology of sf short stories written in protest of the

Terrorism Act. The editor, a few of the contributors, and interested parties discuss the influences and ideas behind the project.

Charles Stross, Kari, Ian McDonald, Farah

Art Auction

Edward 1 Sun 14:00 - 17:00

Now that you've seen what's on offer in the Art Show, this is your opportunity to fight for it! If you want to know how the Auction works, please go and talk to the Art Show staff who will explain the process.

John Harold

Adamist or Edenist?

Roodee Sun 14:00 - 15:30

Biotech vs nanotech as applied to humans -- is there a difference? How have different writers, from Bruce Sterling to Justina Robson to Peter Hamilton to Peter Watts, explored the difference? Where is the line, and which side of it would you be on?

Peter Harrow, Paul Raven a.k.a. Armchair Anarchist, Nikkums, Richard Morgan

Post-BSFA awards discussion

Charles 1 Sun 15:30 - 17:00

The panel look at the results of yesterday's vote.

Liz Batty, Chris Hill, Martin McGrath, Kari

But That's Not SF!

Roodee Sun 15:30 - 17:00

What's SF really? What's not SF that we think we should claim?

Dave Lally, Jane Killick, John Richards, Phil Nansen, John Dallman

Military - reality vs fiction

Charles 1 Sun 17:00 - 18:30

Digicams and email bring modern soldiers' views of war right onto our

(Continued on page 22)

(Continued from page 21)

computer screens. How do their experiences compare with sf's depictions of future conflict?

Martin Easterbrook, Richard Morgan, Simon Bradshaw, Charles Stross

Artetypes

Edward 1 Sun 17:00 - 18:30

There are many conventional images of artists (in whatever medium they work). For example, there is the iconoclast, the rebel, the self-absorbed and so on. To what extent are these archetypes reflected in SF and fantasy? Are there different archetypes that are unique to these genres?

Deirdre Counihan, Michael Abbott, Paul Dormer, Peter Wareham

Paper Doll Masquerade

Roodee Sun 17:00 - 18:30

See detailed article further on.

Not the Clarke Awards

Edward 1 Sun 18:30 - 20:00

A discussion of the 2006 Clarke shortlist.

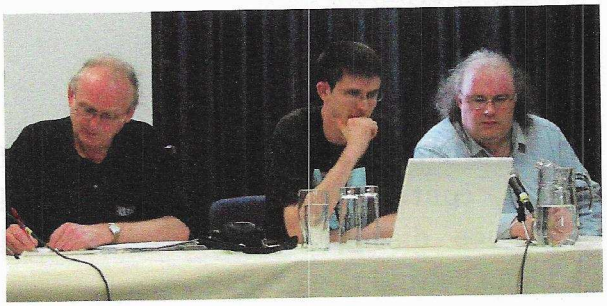
Caroline Mullan, Claire Brialey, Tony Cullen, Iain Emsley, Farah

What would you like to see at Orbital?

Roodee Sun 18:30 - 20:00

Come along with programme suggestions for next year's Eastercon.

Steve Rogerson, Mark Young



Battlestar Galactica Season 3 summary

Christleton Sun 18:30 - 20:00

If you've been diddled by Virgin, and want to be informed for the Politics and Ethics in Battlestar Galactica panel tomorrow, why not come along for an overview of Season 3?

John Richards

Politics and Ethics in Ankh-Morpork

Roodee Sun 20:00 - 21:00

How does Ankh-Morpork actually work? Is there anything we should adopt from it? What would it really be like to live there? Are there any bits of it that, however amusing, are deeply unacceptable?

Farah, Andrew Ducker, Peter Harrow, Abi Brown, John Richards

Borrowed Worlds

Christleton Sun 20:00 - 21:00

Some writers develop their own worlds. Marcus Rowland prefers to find the ones he likes and borrow them, using copyright-expired sources and parodies of current events as the inspiration for his role-playing games. He'll be talking about Forgotten Futures, Diana: Warrior Princess, and The Original Flatland Role Playing Game, and possibly brain-storming some ideas for some or all of these games.

Inveigle

Kings Sun 21:00 - 22:00

An SF play by David Wake. There's an article by David about the play further on somewhere.

David Wake, Peter Harrow

League of Fan Funds Auction

Kings Sun 22:00 - 00:00

After the play, it's the Triumphant Return of the Fan Funds Auction. Your intrepid auctioneers present a wide variety of rare and marvellous objects culled from attics around the globe. But will this see the last of 1/2r's mutton chops? Bring stuff! Buy stuff! Marvel at weird late-night antics! Sorry, we don't have Obi-Wan Kenobi's cloak...

Alison Scott, Flick, Bridget Bradshaw, Claire Brialey, ½r

Hey Dude, Where's My Ice Age?

Roodee Sun 22:00 - 23:00

Social and scientific predictors have been warning us of a coming catastrophe for all of history - in the late nineteenth century it was gridlock and nine metres of horseshit in the street, not so long ago it was the coming Ice Age. Why should we believe them this time round?

Fran Dowd, Dave Clements, Nikkums, Stephen Cooper, Vincent Docherty

(Continued on page 24)

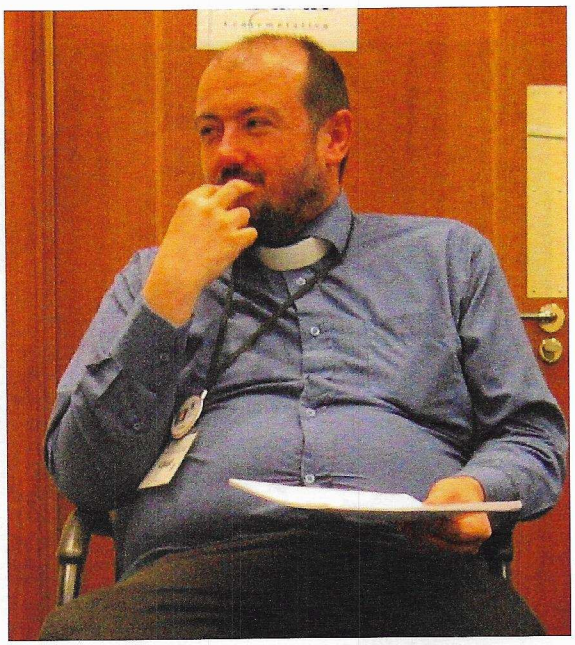
(Continued from page 23)

Obscene Filk Workshop

Christleton Sun 22:00 - 23:00

Obscene filking - a chance to sing and write those filk songs that happily plumb the depths of depravity and perversion.

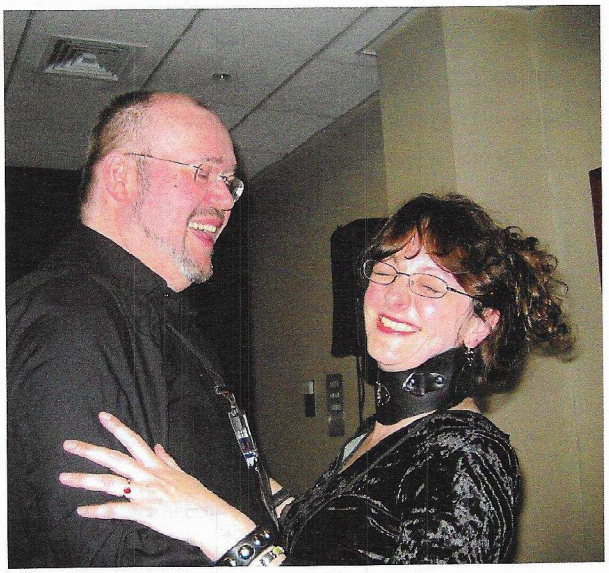
Dougs, Judith Proctor



The BC Intermission Games

Roodee Sun 23:00 - 00:00

Beyond Cyberdrome put their own bizarre spin on a few of your favourite Radio 4 comedy games.



There is a video on video.google.com, search for Beyond Cyberdrome.

Also the Magnetron Crescent Map is at http://www.alexholden.net/misc/bc2007_magnotron_crescent.jpg

SMS

Filking Time

Christleton Sun 23:00 - 01:00

Bring your instruments and voices for informal filking.

Paper Doll Masquerade (Adult)

Roodee Mon 00:00 - 01:00

See detailed article further on.

Monday

Flash Fiction Workshop 2

Roodee Mon 09:00 - 10:00

Feedback and discussion on the writing we did in workshop 1. The format will depend on numbers and interest. Please bring your work from the first session.

Kate Bodley

Professionals in Publishing

Edward 1 Mon 10:00 - 11:00

What exactly is an agent, and editor, a publisher and how can they help you?

John Richards, Roy Gray, Christian Dunn, Deirdre Counihan, Jo Fletcher (GOLLANCZ)

Eastercon Forum

Roodee Mon 10:00 - 11:00

This year's discussion is: Customers Or Members?

Mark Young, James, Dave Lally, Simon Bradshaw, Fran Dowd, Peter Harrow, The Magician, Farah

Overflow Chester Walk

Meet at hotel entrance, 11:00

Mike Scott hosted a second Roman Chester walk, as Tony Keen's one earlier in the weekend was very popular and over-booked.

Human Factors in Space Travel

Charles 1 Mon 11:00 - 12:00

Dr Sarita Robinson, lecturer in Psychology, explores the human side of space exploration, covering everything from spaceship design to the practical issues surrounding sex in space.

Children's literature

Edward 1 Mon 11:00 - 12:00

Our panel discusses the nature of children's literature - why are some classics are no longer considered "suitable"? What do children today want, and what do parents want for them?

Caroline Mullan, Elizabeth Wein, Conor Kostick, Paul Cornell, Alison Scott, Marianne Cain

Other Kinds of Conventions

Roodee Mon 11:00 - 12:00

Eastercon is only one kind of convention, there are all sorts of other events going on out there.

Chris, Elanor, James, Hayley

Going Japanese

Charles 1 Mon 12:00 - 13:00

Are you planning on going to the Worldcon in Japan? Because it's a Worldcon, or because it's in Japan? Come along and share what you know about Japan: culture, language, food, travel recommendations ... goodies for this item sponsored by The Japanese Shop in Chester.

Peter Harrow, Carolina, Pat McMurray

Politics and Ethics in Battlestar Galactica

Edward 1 Mon 12:00 - 13:00

Spoiler Alert - this discussion will be wide-ranging, and may well cover episodes of Season 3 you might not have seen on Sky, even if you can get

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(Continued from page 25)

Sky any more, who knows.

Paul Cornell, Phil Nansen, Simon Bradshaw, John Richards

Monorails - A One Track Mind

Charles 1 Mon 13:00 - 14:30

A presentation on monorails by an enthusiast. (If you're looking for something to do after the con, you can ride the one at Chester Zoo.)

Feòrag NicBhride

George Hay spinoff

Edward 1 Mon 13:00 - 14:30

A discussion of the issues raised in the George Hay lecture yesterday, and how they relate to SF

Simon Bradshaw

If the Swan had sunk

Roodee Mon 13:00 - 14:30

What would the world be like if Shakespeare had not existed? Peter and Gwen give an outline of the career of William Shakespeare, and discuss how different the world might have been if his works had never been written.

Peter Wareham, Gwen Funnell

Why I Want to Gafiate

Edward 1 Mon 14:30 - 16:00

People leave fandom, or stop coming to conventions, all the time. Why? We talk all the time about getting in new fans, why can't we keep the old ones?

John Richards, Pat McMurray, Greg Pickersgill

Healthier Fans

Roodee Mon 14:30 - 16:00

Why are so many of us overweight, or diabetic? Many of us also have food intolerances or minor disabilities. What are we doing about it? How can we help each other?

Bridget Bradshaw, The Magician, Fran Dowd

Scriptwriter's Skills - Structure

Christleton Mon 14:30 - 16:00

David Wake leads a course on structure in your scripts, with examples.

David Wake

Closing Ceremony and Awards

Charles 1 Mon 16:00 - 16:30

Time to say an official bye-bye ... various awards will be presented, including Phlosque and the Doc Weir.

Hosted by the Contemplation Committee.

Feedback to Future Eastercons

Charles 1 Mon 16:30 - 17:30

Orbital is the Eastercon for 2008, and by now we also have an Eastercon for 2009 (we hope ...). Following the Closing Ceremony, representatives from future Eastercons will take the stage for you to give them constructive feedback and contribute to their planning.

Peter Harrow, James, Judith Proctor

DeadDog Party

Charles 1 Mon 19:00 - 00:00

Come along and celebrate!

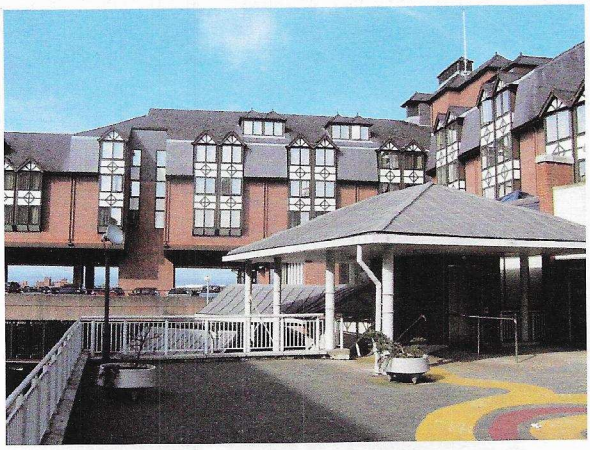
Once More With Feeling singalong

Christleton Mon 19:00 - 20:00

Which was frighteningly well-attended, the room was packed out ...

The Hotel

Contemplation was held at the Crowne Plaza in Chester. Credit for



identifying the venue in the first place goes to Marcus Streets, who added it to Hayley's mega-list. Hayley put in a tremendous amount of work shortlisting and then liaising with the hotel - work which was especially demanding as they had not hosted a convention before.

They did us proud. The food was excellent and reasonably priced, they put in a lot of effort with the beer, and the front of house staff never seemed to sleep. The deal that we had meant that Contemplation members had to spend a few thousand pounds over the weekend

on food and drink for us to get our deposit back, which you achieved, thank-you! And also raised over £600 in a collection for the staff.

ConRunner 2008

http://www.conrunner.org.uk

Britannia Hotel, Wolverhampton
28 - 29 June 2008

ConRunner 2008 is a gathering of fans who're interested in the running of Science Fiction & Fantasy conventions. It's a place for old hands to discussed the current hot topics in convention running, and for new faces to find out about the basics. With a mix of panels, discussions and workshops, ConRunner will offer something for everyone.

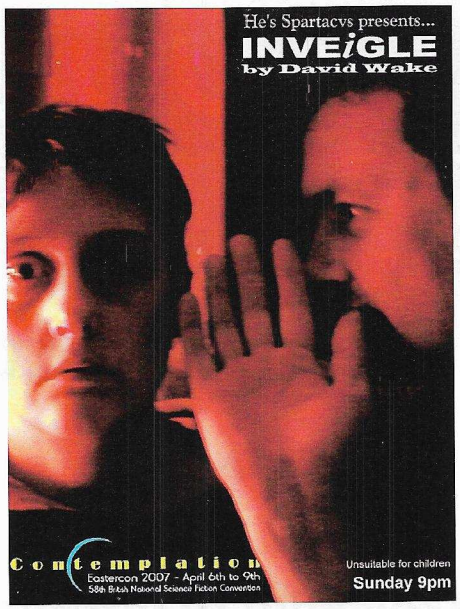
However a conrunning convention is only as good as its membership, as it is their experience and enthusiasm that drives the convention. Already ConRunner's members include a past Worldcon chair, one of the most experienced Eastercon chairs of the last decade, and other conrunning fans from across the UK and Europe.

Membership of ConRunner is currently £30 for the weekend, although this will eventually rise to £50 at the door, with a £25 day rate.

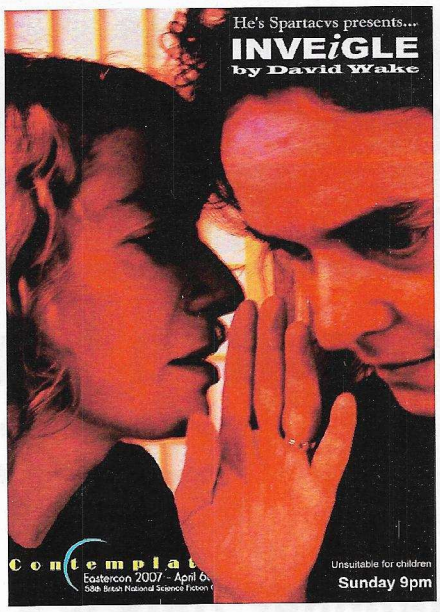
For more information about the convention and an online membership form visit our web-site at

http://www.conrunner.org.uk

I look forward to seeing you all: Steve Cooper
(Publications Head, Interaction the 2005 Worldcon)



"Let me whisper something in your ear"



Ideas are thoughts are words are little voices in your head. They wait until the time is right. They demand to be realised. They have a life of their own.

There are two types of voices: those in your head and those of other people.

"It can't be done," said some.

This was in the heady days of the last millennium, a couple of years after Spock was in Manacles, Gilgamesh's tale had been told and Absurdums were being Reduced. This was theatre in fandom.

"She can hear voices. They can all hear voices."

"But why can't you do serious SF theatre?" I replied.

"Look, you can't do robots and spaceships," said the many so-called fans, "and if you have an interval, people will just stay in the bar."

"Molly, how can you be so thoughtless?"

"But if people were interested in the first place, then they'd come back from the bar after the interval."

"It can't be done."

"Harrumph," said I, and a voice inside ranted to prove them all wrong.

So, serious SF drama went on the

"You were trying to force someone to think

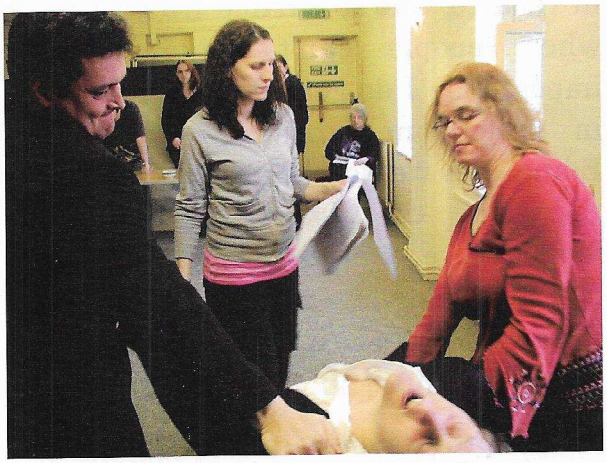
back burner, and I switched to comedy with the Tartan Trilogy. Puppets walked, computers took over and, without a hint of realised irony, spaceships crashed. And, despite the intervals lasted two and three years, people came back from the bar for more.

Meanwhile, Colin Fine dragged me screaming into the mainstream (or at least to the Edinburgh Fringe): "I'll do your lights, if you come to the fringe," he promised and I've been back every year, alien war wounds permitting.

So, in the Real World, I've been writing and entering one-act plays in festivals with some success. (My first play won the Rose Bowl. I was sitting in the curry house afterwards, drinking ale out of this enormous piece of silverware, when I thought, "I like this.") We took two of these 'other plays' to the Edinburgh Fringe and we did, well, OK, three stars. We beat the fringe average audience despite a difficult pitch: picture the scene, it's a nice day, the sun is shining and it's lunchtime - you don't want to go to the pub for a tasty meal and a relaxing pint, you want to come and see a play about paedophilia.

Claymation prepared just in case

Time to bring serious plays to SF



Kaz reads in the whispered line.

conventions, said the inner voices. I held a panel at a con to remind people of the challenge and reiterated the "people say you can't do serious SF theatre, but-"

"When has anyone ever said that?" people said.

Harrumph, I thought. But I would still prove them wrong, or was it now right, or just contrary. Perhaps the point was proved in some strange memetic way, but it still had to be done.

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(Continued from page 31)

But what would be a good idea? Idea, yes, of course.

I am well spoilt by fandom, particularly by the Reconvene Rubber Tree Company. (we re-branded to avoid people thinking "Inveigle" was another comedy, but it's the same crowd.) They are far better and more professional that some professional companies and they go that extra mile. Having done full length plays with casts and crew of over fifty with only six rehearsals gives you a confidence to do anything in theatre, and a terrible frustration when people can't achieve the impossible. I do get a "can't be done" in professional theatre. Er... in Edinburgh we do nine shows a shift, re-jugging the lights, and in SF fandom I've done full length shows (without interval - grrr) with only six rehearsals for a cast and crew of fifty. No, not 15, fifty, 50, five-zero.

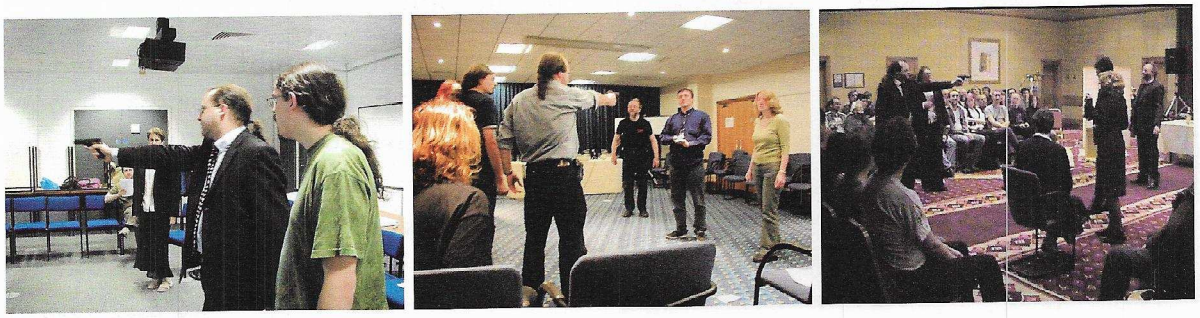
Most professionals are fine, of course. Kaz and Phil, for example, helped us during our rehearsals, so, to return the favour, they're touring "Meeting Disorder" in September and October 2007. It's a comedy written by some bloke, anyway more info on his website: www.davidwake.com.

So my hat off to those who did the play: "Inveigle" is definitely a difficult play. When writing it, I didn't compromise for actors or audience. You all rose to the challenge admirably – thank you.

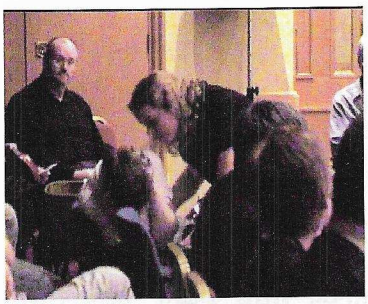
Contemplation had a wonderful zeitgeist. The George Hay Lecture, delivered by Dr. Guillaume, "The Braintrix", talked about thought processes, and later the same evening, "Doctor Who" was all about Shakespeare, plays and the power of words. I was worried our thunder would be stolen, but everything added to the convention's synergy.

Plays are judged critically, artistically, and by the number of bums on seats. We had a good audience, so much so that a chair reserved for the chorus was 'borrowed'. Artistically, well, I loved it and I'm the director, so there. And, I've never seen such a positive response from an audience. I was collared numerous times by people needing to tell me what the play was about.

In a panel the next day, I was compared to Shakespeare (I shall ignore the "in jest" part.) by Peter and Gwen, who were originally responsible for green lighting the Tartan play. I only wish that, when "Author, author" was shouted, I had



"No... I don't think so." Mark threatening in rehearsal and performance.



Clare swears at Dawn.

James and Clare attack Dawn.

The cast ignore Dawn.

remembered what Shakespeare said when he was called on stage only the day before.

"Shut your big foul mouths. You've got excellent taste, I'll give you that. Oh, that's a wig. I know what you're all saying [...] all in good time, you don't rush a genius. [...] my brand new play, a sequel no less and I call it..." - William Shakespeare

As I drove home, feeling inspired, a big voice in my now very big head said, you know what you want to do next...

Dawn Abigail adds:-

To be serious for a moment (as it was a serious play), I feel I had a real insight into what it might be like to suffer from a condition that makes you behave in a way other people find

"Sorry, I've got clay everywhere."

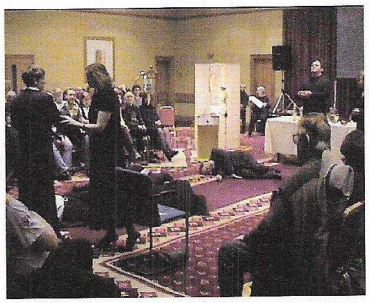
"He made me think."

"Yes. Of course. How obvious. I understand."

"Tinkerbell."

"Don't threaten me."

"There are a million words in the language, each a pointer to a thought."



"I can hear the voices again."

(Continued on page 34)

(Continued from page 33)

difficult (the problem's always with "other people", isn't it?). As we rehearsed a particular scene, my associates swore at me, attacked me and just plain avoided me. Of course, as soon as we took a break, everyone was chatty and friendly with me again. But what if that break never came....

INVEIGLE CREDITS:

CAST

Dita: Clare Goodall. Luke: Colin Fine. Martin: Mark Slater. Alice: Kate Solomon. Molly: Dawn Abigail. Stewart: Peter Westhead. Beth: Julie Rigby. Jacob: James Steel.

CHORUS

1st Chorus: Pat McMurray. Voices: Philip Fine, Tony Keen, Alice Lawson, Caroline Mullen, Chris O'Shea and Richard Stephenson

CREW

Stage Manager: Kathy Westhead. Backstage: Derrick Walford. Sound: Chris Southern.

THANKS TO

Brent Leman, Kaz Luckins, Phil Rea, Tim Ward and John Williams.

Executive Producer: Peter Harrow. Sofa: Fran Dowd

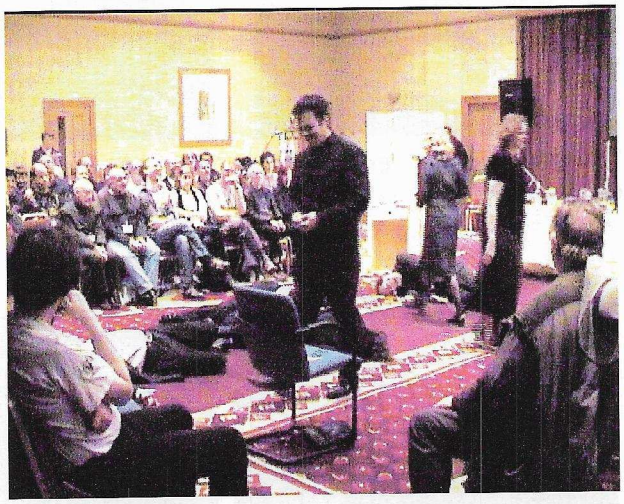
Written and Directed by David Wake

Navel review:

David Wake surprised us all with last night's play. It started from a somewhat experimental psychological grief experience (okay, a wake) played out in the middle of the audience, with the schizophrenic voices one kept hearing offset against the chaotic interactions of the friends and colleagues at the funeral.

Then gradually it developed into the voices taking over, which slowly became clear when the players started interacting with what had seemed like Molly's voices at first. Feeling sorry for Dita's loss developed into anxiety for something whispered into one's ear - finally working out into something like an alien hive mind. Even this was a rather fragile thing though, with less power than you'd originally fear ... or wasn't it, Eira?

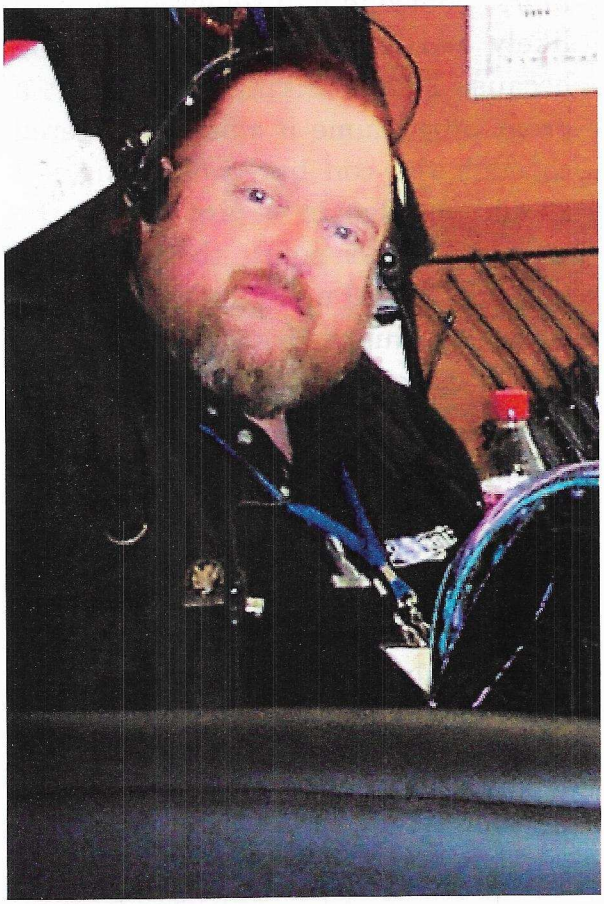
Jan van't Ent



[Insert name], let me whisper something in your ear.

David Wake

Four Days in the Life of a Gopher Mother



I blame it on my really *not* being a morning person. How else to explain letting my guard slip so much as to wander in to Ops at about nine on the Friday morning and say, "So who's running gophering, then?" Oops. It was the ungodly hour (before noon!) and the lack of caffeine, honest guv, otherwise I really would have known better. Anyway, that is how I came to be, before I really knew it and without having even considered the possibility of the job title, Gopher Mum. (I baulked at Gopher *Mom*. Rightpondian, after all...)

First thing to do was find out who needed gophers, and for what; the second thing to do was find some gophers. That might sound like cart before the horse, but I knew that finding these shy, retiring creatures and encouraging them to volunteer would be an ongoing activity. I wandered around the con space, talking to people running specific things (Art Show, Dealers' Room) about their requirements. The good thing about the convention space for Contemplation was that it was quite compact, so a lot of the gophering requirements would be quite light. The main exception to that would be the Art Show auction.

Finding gophers was the next challenge. Some stalwarts who always volunteer for a little light gophering were easy to find, but we would need more. A little gentle encouragement of likely-looking prospects among the fen I knew (or was prepared to claim I knew) was in order. Some certainly seemed to find a large, hairy Gopher Mum (Glasgow Voice: "Hello, I'm Gopher Mum...") looming over them in the bar something of an incentive to volunteer their services for the good of the con. Admittedly, in one or two cases (well, mainly Smurf), it took two or three days before the repeated looming took full effect, but on the whole we covered the spots which needed covering.

So what does a gopher do?

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Well, as the name suggests, a gopher may have to go for stuff, lugging things around, but probably the biggest part of gophering for most of the con is, effectively, stewarding. Ideally, each entrance to the Dealers' Room, for example, would have a gopher on it at all times to ensure that everyone who enters is a member of the convention. This involves sitting in a chair and looking at badges, so you don't have to be young and bursting with energy to be a gopher.

One of the odd things about the hotel is that it has two ground floors (and, by the way, Reception is on *neither*), with two entrances. I had not realised when I strolled around the con space that the door next to the Art Show room was actually one of the main entrances to the hotel (I had thought it an emergency exit). The problem this produced was that next to the Art Show was the Christleton room, where the video programme was running. With AV equipment in there and members of the general public going in and out to the health suite, that would need stewarding whenever the room was in use, unless there was one of the people running the video stream there. The video stream ran from first thing in the morning until late at night...

Having got things sorted on Friday so that I knew what I had covered and what I needed to cover, I found myself after dinner with a bit of a gap before one of my non-Gopher Mum commitments came up, a panel of relentless speculation on *Life On Mars*. Someone had fingered me as a likely participant in that, possibly because I kept talking about what a great programme it was. I wandered through the con bar, wondering if I should indulge in a pint before the panel. At that point, the delightful barmaid looked up at me and asked if I drank draught Bass. I wondered if this were a trick question, but, no: because of the great distance between the bar and the cellar, they had a lot of difficulty getting new barrels on line, and she had two pints there going free. Would I like them...? I went to my panel with the warm glow which only comes from free beer being safely installed in the belly.

By mid-Saturday, the con was in full swing and things were ticking over nicely from my perspective. Some people were tickled pink at my being Gopher Mum (I began to be greeted by one of my brood with the song, "When you're good to Momma...", and the call of, "Oh, *mother...!*" was not infrequent); others found a strange dichotomy between the title and my undeniably large, hairy, masculine reality.

It was worth being Gopher Mum just to see John Harold shudder when he sought me out to talk about the requirements for the Art Auction. ("Oh, this is very disturbing!" he said. My work here is done...)

There are many good reasons why a con member should give gophering a try. It's obviously a good thing for fans to help run a fan-run con (and helping run it is exactly what gophers are doing), but as well as that it is a great way to meet other fans and make new friends. As well as that, you get groats. Groats are not *payment* for being a gopher, they are given to volunteers as a thank you for contributing to the running of the con. There is no denying that it is pleasant to drink a pint paid for by groats at the end of a long, tiring day of good, hard *fun*. One of my gophers at Contemplation caught up with me in the Dealers' Room after she had finished her stint for the day, and I tried to remember in which of my many pockets I had secreted the groats. "Come on, then," she said, "show us what you've got in your groatum!" The term stuck; for the rest of the con, *groatum* it was.

There is also the sport to be had when a gopher on door duty refuses admittance to a really quite well-known fan (not to the gopher, though) because said fan has forgotten to wear their con badge. "But I'm [NAME DELETED TO PROTECT THE GUILTY]!" expostulated the BNF in question. "Sorry, I never heard of you," said my good and diligent gopher. Slipped her an extra groat for that, purely on the grounds of entertainment value.

Saturday evening, having made sure the necessary coverage was provided (i.e. someone on Christleton while the video programme was running), Gopher Mum headed out into the wilds of Chester with some friends to find food. (We forage, you know...) That was when we encountered clear evidence that the general public has penetrated fans' cunning disguises of con T-shirts and multi-pocketed waistcoats. Heading up Northgate, a passing and perceptive mundane yelled after us, "I see *Doctor Who*'s finished, then?"

Sunday morning, had to make sure the gophers were in place at Christleton (yes, one or two people did overhear me wandering around muttering, "Bloody Christleton!" at different points in the con) for the Kids' TV stuff... Kids? Didn't see one head without grey hair... Then I was off to my second panel item (as participant, I mean), one on local SF fan groups. During the course of this, I managed to forget which day in the month Trout (the Glasgow group people keep telling me I run) meets. I blame the pressures of being Gopher Mum, the constant worry about covering Christleton and the Dealers' Room, over whether we would have enough hands for the Art Auction. It was nothing to do with late nights in the con bar, or any alcohol you might have imagined you saw me imbibing. (I mean, drink? *Me?*)

By dint of much looming and growling, I scared up enough gophers

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to assist the Art Auction in running smoothly. They very nearly got an extra lot of groats, because I was prepared to groat them up (another term coined by one of my happy crew) but they received ample from the Art Show's supply. The honest gophers that they are, they said so straight away. Mummy was proud (and getting worryingly used to being called "Mummy").

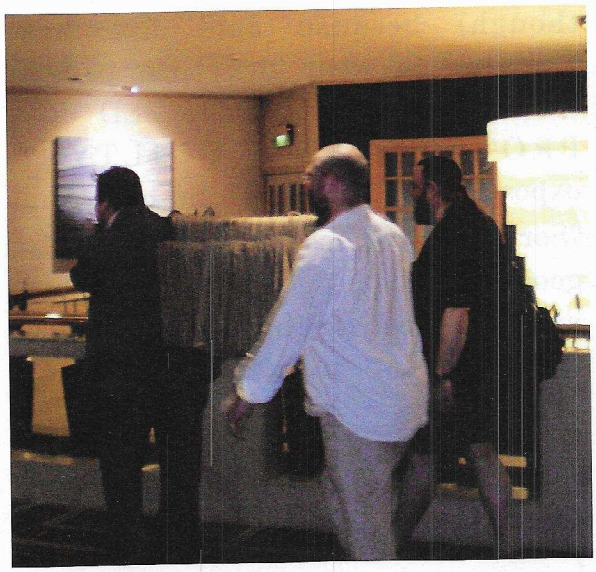
My lasting impression of Contemplation, which was an excellent Eastercon if no one else has said that already, was of a continual whirl of activity. As usually happens at Eastercons, I remember it less as four separate days and more as the beginning, getting stuff moving and getting into the swing of things, and the tailing off part, when things are moving in a relaxed manner to their conclusion. There's no clear point at which it tips from one to the other, but the closest to it is the Art Auction. It was an easy coast downhill all the way after that. Apart from making sure that Christleton (*Grrrr....*) was manned all the time, things were going very smoothly, though no more big names got turned away from the Dealers' Room, unfortunately. Little moments of impromptu theatre like that do liven the day up a bit.

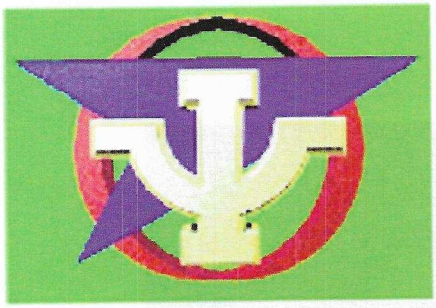
It's easy to overlook the contribution of gophers to the smooth running of the con, not least for the gophers themselves who often don't realise how essential the part they play is. ("I was only doing a bit of gophering," many say.) I was uncomfortably aware when Chris & Fran thanked me at the closing ceremony (and the friend to my side hissed, "Stand up, then!") that I was taking the thanks when most of the actual work had been done by the twenty or so gophers whom I shanghaied... I mean, who *happily and spontaneously volunteered* to help out. Thanks to all of you, every last one.

My intention when rolling up at Ops on the Friday morning had been to do some stints in Ops, nothing so strenuous as being Gopher Mum, but I had a whale of a time for all that I was on the go almost the whole time. Or, perhaps, *because* I was on the go...?

Always remember, "When you're good to Momma, Momma's good to you..."

DC





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The Elephants And Woozels In Our Fannish Living Room

There is a difference between doing the right thing and doing something right. Sometimes we get blinded by what we think we have to do, rather than what we give some thought to actually doing when it comes to convention programming. We don't really have any elephants, but we do have some woozels.

Fran and Chris along with their team always had the advantage of surprise attack. In the smoky chaos of the demise of the Liverpool convention, whomever charged through would not only be victorious, as is the case when heroic acts of stupidity or bravery occur, but venerated for whatever the likely shape of victory would take.

Nice words, but they do not replace the hard work that goes into running and preparing a programme for a science fiction convention. Fran and Chris were lucky though: a lot of things fell their way, as it deserved, from the variety of authors who showed up, to the excellent discussions that arose. What with a limiting amount of space a number of peripheral yet pertinent programme activities, which some would see as traditional were unfortunately required to be postponed or deterred.

This allowed a certain focus in my opinion onto the core activities of these SF conventions, discussions about books and science fiction.

We sometimes have no idea how lucky we are, how professional those who run these conventions actually try to be. I was at a convention only a short time ago, where 400 people turned up and they had a masquerade with over 25 entries, most of which were excellent. Unfortunately, despite an eminent team of judges, the event organisers forgot to award prizes as promised.

Could you imagine that happening at an Eastercon? Like no Delorean, excusable sure, but a con com would get gutted for forgetting about little ones like that.

Eastercons have a different problem, it's about utilising resources and gaining a critical level of participation that justifies effort and spend. This is key in going forward. As much as the challenge may be to keep as many people happy as possible, it's also about looking at what the committee is enabled to do and not to do.

I often feel that Eastercon committees are enabled in such a

fantastic way. Many may think I refer to the democratic nature of Eastercon. That convention committees stand up and state what they intend to do and if there are rival bids, which is infrequent, but is possible, there is the ultimate choice of voting. Yes, but no.

This is not as important in my mind as the pure faith that occurs as a person hands over their hard earned cash. From the wage packet to the convention is something I often ponder. This fiscal commitment is very important and bestows considerable responsibility upon a committee. This is the true enabler. Money pays for things to happen, whether it be guest's expenses, kites, groats for volunteers or the hire charge of the venue. Money is one of many greasers of the wheels of a convention. Not the most important, but an example of belief coalesced into hard reality.

Eastercons continue apace. It's interesting that no matter what people discuss or say, it is almost impossible to impose upon a committee of the future anything that the people of now would like. This is not a bad thing. If something is a good idea, future committees may take these on. If, and this is something I and my committee are quite open about, there is a feeling something is jaded, perhaps surplus to requirement or perhaps needs updating or a break for a while, then it should occur naturally.

Fran spoke to me about how she had to what I called 'cull' of a number of usual items, on the list was the likes of the costume workshop, Masquerade and the Cyberdrome and of course there were no guests.

It's hard. No-one wants to pee on anyone else's parade. I want to talk about and discuss science fiction literature. I want to talk about sequential literary art and the skills involved and would be upset if someone came along and decided that these aspects are not going to occur.

Yet, I attend many conventions where the discussion of the actual subject can be far from the core. Which can be good.

So despite the situation where there was no Cyberdrome this year, this does not in fact make it any easier for a committee to decide that this event won't occur in 2009. The concept is indeed a good one, and I expect to utilise some of the central ideas of the whole concept, but not where I have to leave three or so people in a room continuously for three days. The same goes for the costume workshop and even more so for the Masquerade.

If we don't have participants who say they will be dressing up, then we won't have a Masquerade. No matter who protests on the day, we need a certain amount of commitment from participants to gain our own commitment in return.

It's important to look at these various aspects that, well, are at the periphery of the convention, at times ignored by many or of no interest and

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at other moments, when it suits, a sudden spectacle that a huge percentage want to take in. It's also good to try and look at new ideas and of course cross media integration, so if we do have a workshop item, it should tie in neatly with other aspects and not be lost on its own.

This is not permanent and of course, I expect that whatever committee follows the one I am on will disown or disagree with what we set out to do, this is OK, and part of what happens as the conventions progress.

If anyone looks at the programme of an Eastercon thirty years ago, they would be surprised by the similarities and many differences.

What type of woozels are brought into the convention in the future is in the realm of true speculation, but in my mind there are a number of elephants that we will always thread carefully around.

Even I am not armed with an elephant gun.

James Bacon
Co-Chair, LX, Eastercon 2009

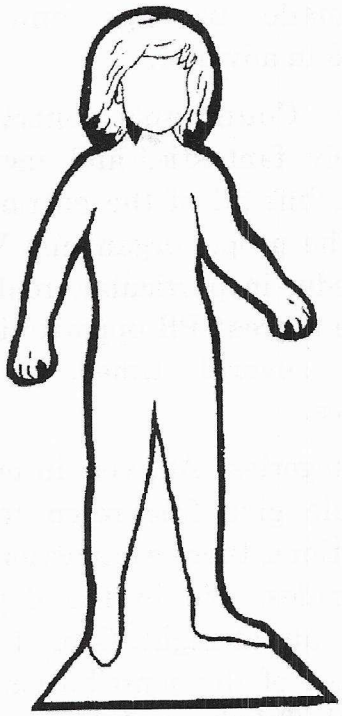
Paper Doll Masquerade

After Intersection, the 1995 Worldcon, I was on the committee of a wind-down convention called DiSection. Our aim was to parody the best events from Glasgow, on a scale that would fit into a small hotel in Sheffield. For the Masquerade, we supplied a paper cutout doll, and some basic crafty stuff, encouraged people to let their imaginations run riot, and gave them programme time to parade their work. Kate Solomon won, I recall, although she refused to accept her prize of a Barbie In Space video.

When it became clear that there wouldn't be space, time, or any other kind of continuum which would allow a chaos costuming workshop or masquerade at Contemplation, I remembered how much fun people had had with the dolls, and we decided to do it again. We couldn't provide anywhere for people to work on them, so we circulated the template in advance (it's still up on the website if you want to have another go, at: http://contemplation.conventions.org.uk/dolla4.pdf).

You could do anything: colour it in, stick stuff on it, cut it out and play with it, make group scenes ...

Initially I was a bit worried about it, there were people who obviously didn't get it and thought we were taking the piss, but rumours began circulating of groups that had re-designed the template ... and Deirdre



Counihan got in touch and said not only did she collect such things, but supplied items to museum exhibitions, wrote academic theses on paper ephemera, and would like to write up the whole Contemplation Masquerade idea for the UK Paper Doll Journal. Which we had no idea existed.

But apparently we'd hit another zeitgeist.

Flick says:

"When I saw that Contemplation was planning a Paper Doll Masquerade, I was really pleased. I was a bit bemused when I found out I was judging it, but then I realised that it would involve paper. And glue. And sparkly things!

I really enjoyed being involved with it. There were loads of entries, some made at the con in kids' bedrooms,

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some made in Ops and some prepared in advance.

Deirdre Counihan's entry was absolutely fantastic, and incredibly detailed, but all of the entries were great. The people organising Year of the Teledu, in particular, realised it could be a great PR opportunity and entered several times, in both categories.

Both categories? Ah, yes: in order to let people give free reign to their imaginations, there were actually two masquerades, one in the day time and one late at night. Come to think of it, most of the contributions from Ops and Teledu ended up in the latter show....

The only thing that I thought was a shame is that there wasn't time and space to have a doll-making session at the con. I like making things, and I couldn't help thinking about the fact that I had various bits and pieces that would be ideal for sticking onto paper dolls. Year of the Teledu being designed to let people do whatever they wanted, I decided that a Paper Doll Masquerade would be a good idea, and stuck it on the wiki together with a workshop.

Even though we didn't have as many of the serious costume buffs, or the Teledudes busy shamelessly promoting themselves, we still had a dozen or so entries, made at the con then judged, with prizes being awarded in the Closing Ceremony.

Everyone involved enjoyed themselves and had fun making the dolls, so I'm very glad that I was able to steal the idea from Contemplation!"

Deirdre Counihan

"Alanna" from 'The Panther'

Jess Bennett parades her Lady Badger

The winning entries were:

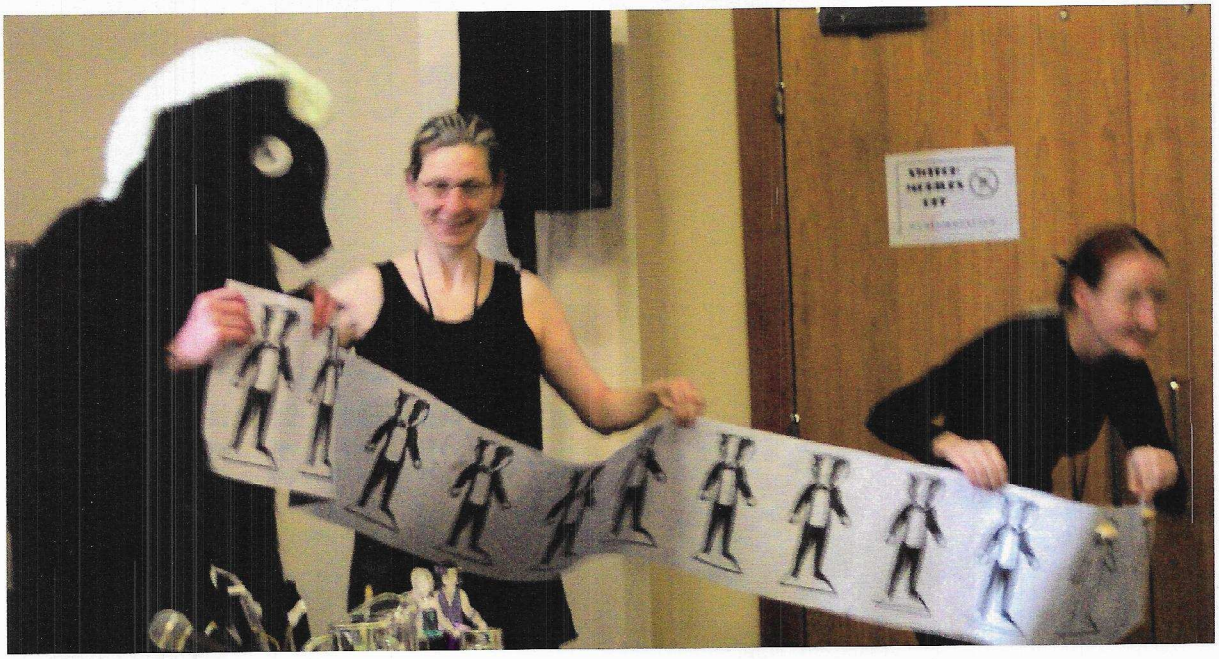
Adult

Sigmund Freud Award for Jury Breaking:

Chris Tregenza, Teledu Nightmares

Most Doom-Laden Giant Willy of Doom:

Andrew Patterson, His & Hers



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Best Gift-Wrap:

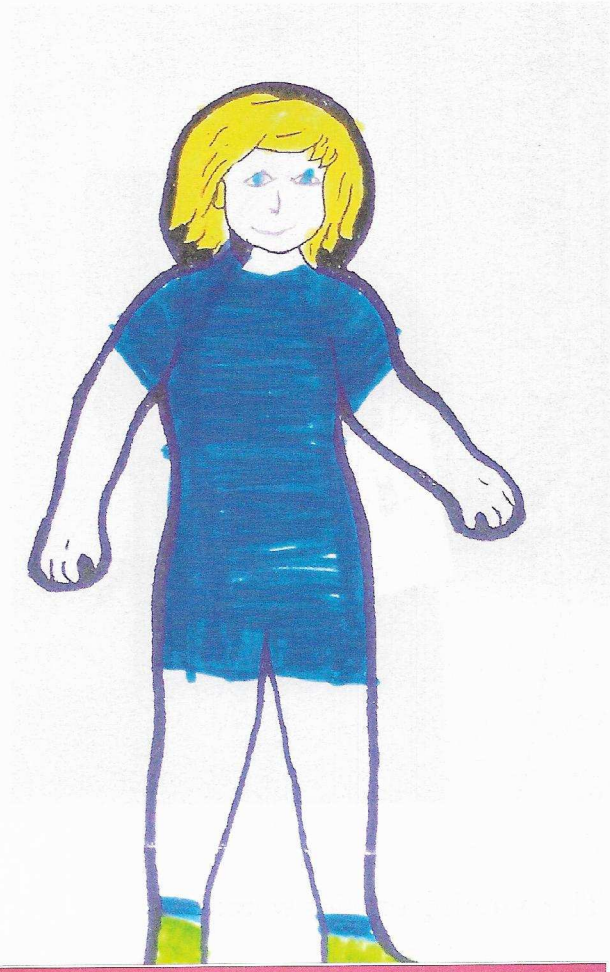
Serena Culfeather, Mutant Zebra Woman

Best in Show:

Jess Bennett, Lady Badger

Judges: Flick, Sue Mason, Ian Watson

MC: Alice Lawson



Daytime: Kids

Best hand-drawn:

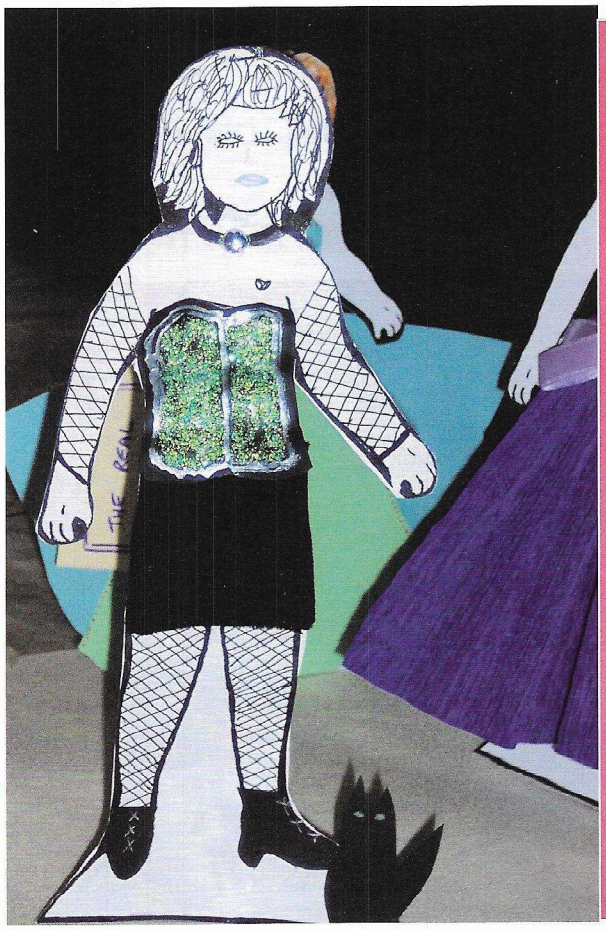
Tilly "Cinderella"

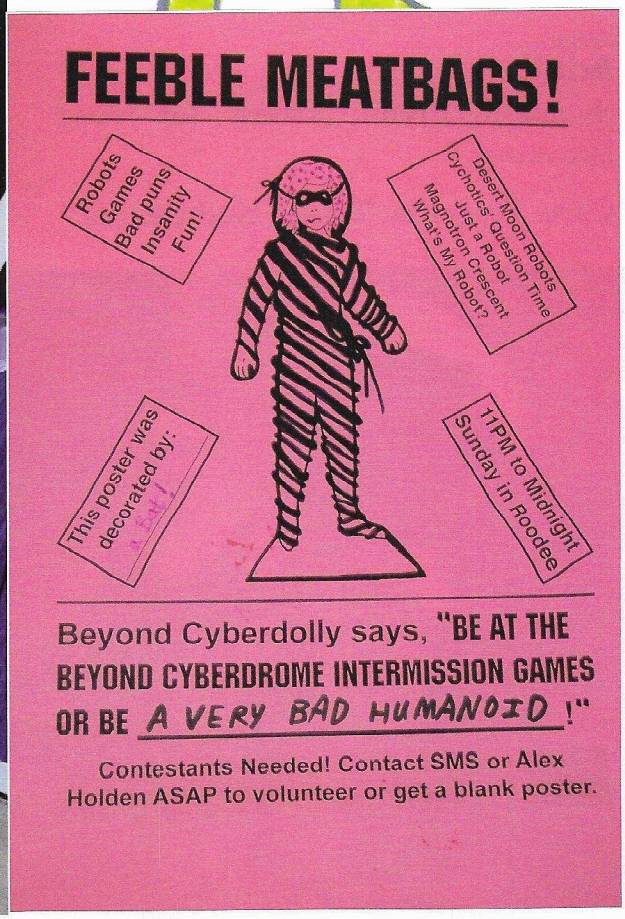
Best colouring:

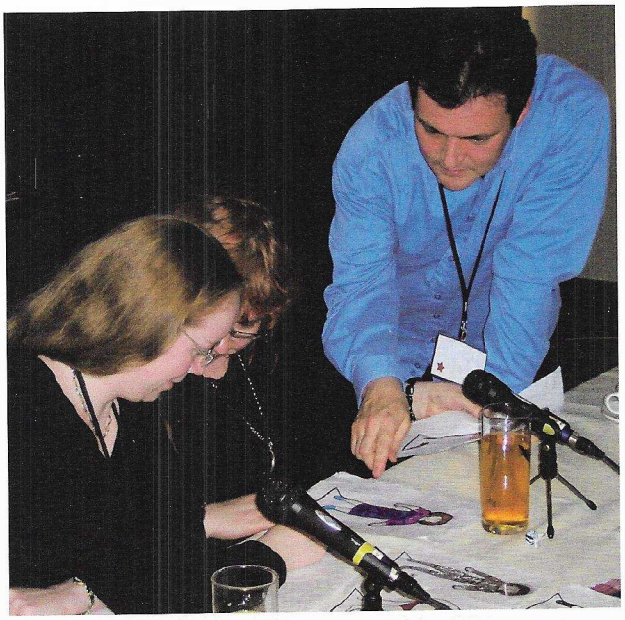
Meriol "Blue mini-dress"

Best alien:

Danae "Alien"







Future of fannish fashion:

Charlotte "Diamonds"

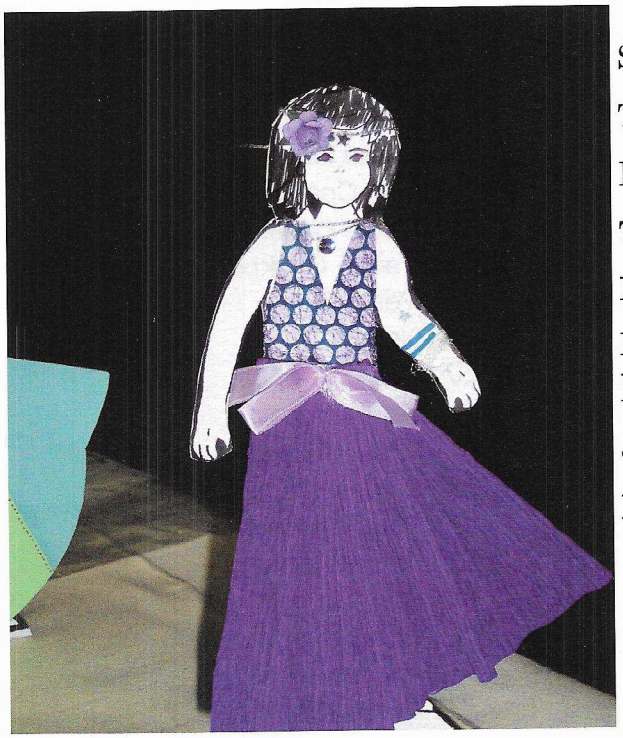
Daytime: Adults

Best recreation:

Michelle "Rose Tyler"

Best use of a brass bra:

John O'Donnell "Heroine"



Subtlety in the face of fandom:

Tanya Brown "Purple Dress"

Blatant self-promotion:

Teledu

Best in show:

Deirdre Counihan "Alanna" from 'The Panther'

Judges: Flick, Sue Mason, James Steel

MC: Alice Lawson

Fran Dowd (The Sofa)
Flick

Contemplation Membership List

A	315	Michael Abbott
A	144	Dawn Abigail
A	262	Ian Allan
A	435	Charlie Allery
A	127	Paul Allwood
A	89	Brian Ameringen
C	90	Meriol Ameringen
A	501	Chris Amies
A	278	Tina Anghelatos
A	130	Andrew Armstrong
A	131	Helen Armstrong
A	440	Erik Arthur FANTASY CENTRE
A	152	T'iger
D	627	Nicola Atkin
A	169	Sandy Auden
A	251	Margaret Austin
A	47	James
A	545	Katrina
A	378	Stephen
A	265	Barbara
X	92	bat
A	387	Liz Batty
A	415	Zara Baxter
X	410	Bear
X	565	Lewis P Bear
A	340	Chris Beckett
A	455	Jacey Bedford
C	591	Bef
A	27	Minnow
A	250	The Bellinghman
D	619	J S Belton
A	175	Jess
A	84	Austin
A	207	Meike
D	636	John Berwine
S	434	John Bilton
A	575	Jo-Anne Blanco
A	326	Anne Bodell
A	40	Kate Bodley
A	427	Jaap Boekestein
A	573	Hans-Ulrich Boettcher
A	458	Sue Boulton
A	238	Robbie Bourget
A	556	Dave Bradley
A	484	Jill Bradley
A	483	Phil Bradley
A	279	Wendy Bradley
A	43	Bridget Bradshaw
A	44	Simon Bradshaw
A	45	Claire Brialey
A	563	MEG
A	564	Lewis
D	649	Keith Brooke
A	492	Matt Brooker
A	104	Chris Brooks
J	538	Abi Brown
D	646	Eric Brown
A	60	David J Thacker
A	559	Pat
A	503	Pol
A	202	Tanya Brown
A	558	Vernon
A	231	Ed Buckley
A	426	Kevin Buley
A	16	Bill Burns
A	17	Mary Burns
A	116	Quantum Mechanic
C	156	Jonathan Cain
C	155	Marianne Cain
A	154	Steven Cain
A	420	DC
D	632	Alice Chapman
A	532	Kath/KC
A	373	Ewan Chrystal
D	609	Fiona Clark
A	364	Nic Clarke
A	257	Dave Clements
A	540	Cat Coast
A	99	Elaine
C	101	Ethan Coates
C	100	Joel Coates
A	8	Eddie Cochrane
A	168	Paul F Cockburn
A	433	Peter Cohen
A	55	Nolley
D	620	David Cooper
D	621	Jane Cooper
D	624	Libby Cooper
D	623	Matthew Cooper
A	58	Stephen Cooper
D	622	William Cooper
A	411	Paul Cornell
A	481	Elizabeth Counihan
A	256	Jon Courtenay Grimwood
A	239	Gary Couzens

D	606	Chris Cowan
A	69	Dave Cox
A	332	John Coxon
A	36	Margaret Croad
A	579	Keris
A	448	Enid Crowe
A	67	½r
A	91	Serena Culfeather
A	114	Tony Cullen
A	20	John Dallman
A	22	Julia Daly
D	645	Andrew Darling
A	172	Christine
A	173	Michael
D	640	Colin P Davies
A	82	Malcom Davies
A	110	Steve Davies
A	323	Robert Day
A	109	Giulia De Cesare
A	208	Jim de Liscard
A	546	Jetse
S	320	La Femme Chocolat
A	132	Sha
A	561	Neil
A	41	Vincent Docherty
A	367	"Chris ""electric hedgehog"" Dollin"
A	54	Paul Dormer
A	26	Fran Dowd
A	25	John Dowd
A	321	Tara Dowling-Hussey
A	500	Tixylix
A	161	David Drysdale
A	388	Andrew Ducker
C	360	Chris Duckworth
A	357	Jackie Duckhawk
J	359	Kathy Duckworth
A	358	Tim Duckworth
A	379	Chris Dunk
A	471	Phoenix Handmade Books
A	535	Christian Dunn
A	42	Steve
A	224	Roger Earnshaw
A	252	Martin Easterbrook
A	590	Cathy Easthope
A	386	Lilian Edwards
D	626	Malcolm Edwards
A	330	Sue Edwards
A	409	beermat
D	651	Jason Ellis
A	4	Iain Emsley
A	64	Andy England
A	436	Lunatic E'sex
A	486	Persona non Anders
A	149	annafdd
A	9	Mike Figg
A	229	Colin Fine
A	225	Philip Fine
A	306	Jo Fletcher, GOLLANCZ
A	148	Flick
X	193	FluffCthulhu
X	566	Fluffy Thing from Southampton
A	491	Lynn Fotheringham
D	605	Peter Fulford
A	87	Gwen Funnell
D	629	Malcolm Furnass
A	247	TJ
A	462	Fred Gambino
D	630	Toby Gascoyne
A	299	Elizabeth Wein
C	301	Mark Gatland
C	300	Sara Gatland
A	273	Colin Gavaghan
A	331	Gonz
A	390	Nick Gibbins
I	392	The Garklet
A	418	Marcus Gipps
A	222	Carolina
A	284	Clare Goodall
A	406	Angela Goodfellow
A	162	Niall Gordon
A	129	Roy Gray
A	544	Shaun Green
A	502	Fiat Knox
A	570	Tlanti
D	633	Paul Grimes
A	128	urban gunnarsson
A	171	Shobah Guzadhur
D	625	David Haddock
A	437	Helen Hall
A	167	Mark Harding
A	237	John Harold
D	652	Matthew Harpham
A	341	Niall Harrison
A	80	Peter Harrow
A	424	Colin
J	550	Alice Hedenlund
A	548	Anders Hedenlund
J	551	Felix Hedenlund

(Continued on page 50)

(Continued from page 49)

A	549	Jeanette Hedenlund
C	552	Wei Hedenlund
A	593	Edgar
A	505	Zandy Hemsley
D	635	Robert A Hepworth
A	204	Assaf
A	203	Tamar
D	644	Paul Heskett
A	192	Feòrag NicBhride
A	283	Yvonne Hewett
A	439	Inge Heyer
A	539	Dave Hicks
I	541	Penny Hicks
A	244	Chris Hill
A	245	Penny Hill
A	371	Martin Hoare
A	241	Andrew Hobson
A	240	Sue Hobson
D	510	Ian Hocking
D	508	Ian Hocking
A	506	Judi Hodgkin
A	57	Alex Holden
A	405	Andrew Hook
A	235	Warren Hudson
A	10	Phil
D	613	Jay Hurst
D	614	Robyn Hurst
A	160	Malcom H
A	342	Mad Elf
A	53	Nicholas Jackson
D	639	Michael James
S	15	Wilf James
A	223	John Jarrold
A	272	Carol Jess
A	572	Friday
D	638	Gareth D Jones
D	637	Ian Jones
A	107	Sue Jones
A	498	Trevor Jones
A	352	Eleanor Joslin
A	72	Kari
S	419	Dr Bob
A	39	Tony Keen
A	232	Kevon Kenna
A	21	Peter Kievits
A	495	Steve K
A	560	Jane
A	243	Quantum Lucy
A	242	SpaceCowboy
A	438	Tim Kirk
A	380	Mavin
J	381	Kyara
A	554	Conor Kostick
A	533	Derrick Lakin-Smith
A	534	Kim Lakin
A	117	dave lally
A	328	Colin P Langeveld
A	108	Dave Langford
A	329	Hex
A	537	Tiffany Lau
A	111	Alice Lawson
A	312	Steve
A	79	Erhard Leder
D	617	Jill Lee
D	650	Chris Leighton
D	657	Roger Levy
D	618	William Li
A	314	Ruth Liebig
X	375	Little Noel
A	466	Elanor
A	349	Mike Llewellyn
A	267	Oscar Logger
D	616	Gavin Long
D	615	Caroline Loveridge
A	48	Peter Mabey
A	86	Duncan MacGregor
A	346	TIM MAGUIRE
A	33	Jeremy Maiden
A	588	Crazy Dave
A	485	Craig Marnoch
A	3	Hayley
A	408	Rita (Hayley's Mum)
A	374	Fluffy Thing from East London
A	230	Keith Marsland
A	31	Sue Mason
A	140	Ian Maughan
A	46	Max
A	263	Alistair Maynard
A	447	Ian McDonald
A	557	Joe McDonnell
A	412	Martin McGrath
A	428	Rod
A	472	Simon
A	37	Pat McMurray
A	582	Kev McVeigh
D	648	John Meaney
D	647	Yvonne Meaney
A	598	Bridget Meenan
C	600	Kathryn Meenan

C	599	Kieran Meenan
A	597	Mark Meenan
A	414	Geneva Melzack
A	32	Farah
A	460	Deborah J. Miller
A	333	Nick Mills
A	133	Munchkin
A	452	Rodney Milton
A	479	Sam Moffat
A	453	Chris Moore
A	567	Mary Ellen Moore
A	280	Murray Moore
A	487	Chris Morgan
A	488	Pauline Morgan
A	507	Richard Morgan
D	610	Simon Morris
A	88	Caroline Mullan
A	417	Sara Mulryan
A	474	Tony
A	71	Phil Nansen
A	469	Cherry Newton
A	468	Henry Newton
A	536	Mark Newton
D	603	Penny Newton
D	641	Mike Nolan
A	5	Sharyn November
A	166	Roderick O Hanlon
A	345	CLARRIE O'CALLAGHAN
A	77	James
A	151	D'rew
A	361	John O'Donnell
A	362	June O'Donnell
A	489	Erik V. Olson
A	19	Omega
A	141	Ken O'Neill
A	282	Ruth O'Reilly
A	23	The Magician
D	509	Britta Osthaus
D	511	Britta Osthaus
A	12	MikeO
X	372	Panda
X	407	Norman
A	228	Paul Paolini
A	317	Darroll Pardoe
A	318	Rosemary Pardoe
D	628	Arwel Parry
A	363	Brian Parsons
A	490	Spike
A	384	Andrew Patterson
A	163	Andrew Patton
A	18	Official Cuddly Toy
A	576	James
A	246	RogerP
A	413	Tommy Persson
A	577	Yngve N. Pettersen
A	150	Rog Peyton
A	74	Catherine Pickersgill
A	73	Greg Pickersgill
A	50	Mark Plummer
A	259	Mili
A	2	Silas
A	461	Gareth Lyn Powell
A	271	pratt
C	656	Cassiana Pratt
A	270	marcus 9
A	269	roo
D	611	Marion Pritchard
D	612	Steve Pritchard
A	311	Henry Proctor
A	70	Judith Proctor
A	587	Liam Proven
A	153	Larry van der Putte
A	248	Paul Raven a.k.a. Armchair Anarchist
A	264	Danielle Ray
A	249	Colette
A	75	Thomas Recktenwald
A	233	Peter Redfarn
A	308	Gillian Redfearn GOLLANCZ
A	164	Pat
A	165	Trevor
A	51	John Richards
A	38	Julie Rigby
C	277	Pirate Kid 2
C	276	Pirate Kid 1
A	275	Nick Robinson
A	56	Roger Robinson
A	274	Sarita
A	562	Doreen Rogers
A	227	Mic Rogers
A	580	Tony Rogers
A	1	Steve Rogerson
A	253	Howard Rosenblum
A	254	June Rosenblum
J	255	Michelle
A	555	Ang Rosin
A	49	Marcus Rowland
A	542	Yvonne Rowse
A	158	Simon Russell

(Continued on page 52)

(Continued from page 51)

D	631	Geoff Ryman
A	347	Ian Sales
A	268	Jim Samuel
A	142	Andy Sawyer
A	449	Keith Scaife
A	592	FIFITRIX
A	442	Peter Schimkat
A	157	Alison Scott
A	463	Donna Scott
A	66	Jamie Scott
A	147	Mike Scott
D	634	Emma Segar
A	530	John Selmes
A	344	KEN SHINN
S	29	Ina Shorrock
I	339	Cuileann
A	337	Eira
A	338	SMS
A	586	Clive Shortell
A	95	Mark Sinclair
A	96	Sally Sinclair
A	478	Paul Skevington
A	98	Mark Slater
A	450	Graham Sleight
D	655	Kristie Smart
A	475	Martin
A	594	Eve Smith
A	467	Gus Smith
A	553	Smitty
A	476	Melica
A	68	Nojay
A	281	Ian Snell
A	236	Adrian Snowdon
A	81	Kate Solomon
A	543	Ian Sorensen
A	176	Chris
A	177	Jenny
A	307	Simon Spanton GOLLANCZ
A	30	DougS
A	583	Michael
S	457	Jesper Stage
A	391	Issy Stark
A	416	Mark Stay
A	170	James Steel
A	547	Stephane Marsan - Bragelonne
A	178	Richard Stephenson
A	325	Susan Stepney
A	585	Auntie Christ
A	571	Ali
A	219	Barbara Stewart
A	584	Smurf
A	218	John Stewart
A	313	Ian Stockdale
A	494	June
A	327	Lars Strandberg
A	134	Marcus Streets
A	135	Rae Streets
C	136	Tilly
A	191	Charles Stross
A	234	Anne Sudworth
S	106	Dave Symes
S	105	Fay Symes
A	482	Deirdre Counihan
C	139	Charlotte Taylor
A	422	Lady Clara
A	137	Ian Taylor
A	138	Kathy Taylor
A	425	Dr Guillaume Thierry
A	266	Markus Thierstein
A	35	David G. Thomas
A	459	Sue Thomason
A	421	Jean Thompson
A	389	Geoff Thorpe
A	52	Dave Tompkins
A	365	Magus42
A	574	Melusine
A	589	Paul Treadaway
A	174	Chris
A	578	Colin
D	607	Darren Turpin
D	608	Jo Turpin
A	78	Lennart Uhlin
A	493	Helen Keeble
A	385	Tobes
A	595	Supermouse
A	146	Marion van der Voort
A	145	Richard van der Voort
A	454	Rob Van Gasselt
A	94	Jan van't Ent
A	596	Paul
A	260	Paul
A	143	David Wake
A	226	Derrick Walford
C	343	Danae Walker
A	473	Helen
A	76	Mark Waller
A	531	Huw Walters
D	643	David Wardrop
D	642	George Wardrop

A	97	Peter Wareham
A	348	Freda Warrington
A	581	Chris
A	83	Ian Watson
A	261	Jaine Fenn
A	309	Jon Weir GOLLANCZ
A	368	Kathy Westhead
A	369	Mike Westhead
A	370	Peter Westhead
A	383	Eileen Weston
A	382	Peter
A	470	Steph
A	63	Ian Whates
A	465	Laura Wheatly
A	13	Nikkums
A	34	Traci Whitehead
A	324	Charles Whyte
A	464	Bridget Wilkinson
A	103	Peter Wilkinson
A	497	Liz Williams
A	350	Neil Williamson
A	601	Carla Willis
A	602	Charles Willis
A	316	Anne Wilson
A	85	Caro
A	93	John Wilson
A	430	Graham Winter
I	432	Jasmine Winter
C	431	Ross Winter
A	429	Sue Winter
D	604	Jane Wolfe
A	310	Matthew Woodcraft
A	496	Kat W
D	653	Jennifer Woodward
A	24	Shana Worthen
D	654	Peter Wright
A	366	Mark Young

A = Adult Attending
C = Child
D = Day Member
I = Infant
J = Junior

The 59th Eastercon

ORBITAL 2008

21st - 24th March in the Radisson Edwardian Heathrow Hotel, London

Guests of Honour

NEIL GAIMAN

TANITH LEE

CHINA MIÉVILLE

CHARLES STROSS

Fan Guest

ROG PEYTON

At Orbital 2008 we plan to run a highly interactive programme with even more streams than is usual for an Eastercon. All the traditional Eastercon mainstay events will be present including the masquerade, and we will also be holding a Ceilidh and a cabaret. Whether you are into books, films, TV, art, costuming, games, filk, fanzines, hard science, dancing, robots, crafts, or simply socialising in the bar, you are sure to find something you will enjoy.

Membership Rates
Full Adult £55
Unwaged £45
Ages 12-17 ..... £20
Ages 5-11 ..... £5
Under 5s £1
Apocryphal £1
Beeblebear ... £1.42

Refunds are available until the end of January 2008, subject to a £5 admin charge.

Who We Are
Judith Proctor - Chair
Mark Young - Deputy Chair
Steve Rogerson - Programme
Vince Docherty - Finance
Eddie Cochrane - Publications
Chris O'Shea - Ops
Fiona Scarlett - Membership
John Wilson - Hotel
Giulia De Cesare - Guests
Steve Kilbane - Website
Alex Holden - Publicity
John Stewart and Kelvin Proctor - Tech

Either join online or send an SAE for a membership form to: Orbital 2008, 8 Windmill Close, Epsom, Surrey. KT17 3AL.

www.orbital2008.org

Paragon2, 2005

It's traditional in an Eastercon programme book to publish the finalised accounts of the Eastercon two years ago. John Dowd, Treasurer for Paragon2 has issued this Balance Sheet and Treasurer's Report.

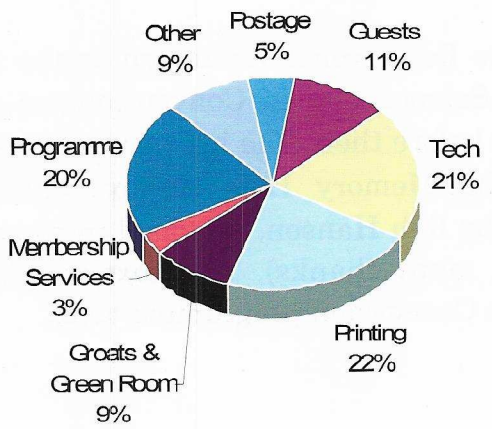
The finance of an Eastercon is a continuous race between a limited income, kept low because it is a membership based volunteer organization, and the rush to spend money driven by enthusiastic committee members with new and often expensive ideas. The treasurer's role is to balance these forces and ensure that **all the bills can be paid**.

The bulk of the income comes from memberships. 579 of you paid an average of £32.81 each. Thank you. Some paid more by joining later, others paid less by joining early or by being very young. The remaining income comes from passalong from other conventions, and from money raised at the convention.

Expenditure is more involved. Significant amounts of expenditure have to be committed fairly early in the process. Others can be left until much later and can be dependant upon the amount of income that comes in later in the run up to the convention. A feature of finance in recent years has been a tendency of the hotel to demand a commitment from the convention. Hinckley had us agree to a room occupancy commitment. If we failed to fill the hotel we would have a sliding scale payment to make which could be as much as £5000. This needed to be included in the budget. Fortunately fandom came through and by the convention it was clear that we would not have to pay for function space. To give some breathing space we decided to produce the souvenir book after the convention. This gave us the cash to pay the hotel if necessary but money for a first rate souvenir book if we met the commitment.

The Expenditure in the balance sheet below shows the expenditure in the department headings as stored in the

INCOME				EXPENDITURE	
Memberships	£18,999.50			Programme	£4,030.03
Seacon Pass Along	£1,800.00			Publicity	£226.33
Dealer's Room	£1,500.00			Publications	£3,166.16
Art Show	£210.00			Guests	£2,496.60
Taff Printing	£165.00			Tech /Ops	£4,682.59
Auction	£107.00			Hotel	£918.00
Interaction Sponsorship	£350.00			Finance	£1,850.62
				Registration	£651.22
				Merchandise	£384.66
				Souvenir Book	£3,808.00
				Miscellaneous Expenses	£517.29
				Pass Along Contemplation	£400.00
	£23,131.50				£23,131.50



main accounts. I have broken down the expenditure under headings related more to the experience of a member of the convention, and this is shown in the pie chart above.

One percent of our average member's membership fee would be 33p. So the posting of four Progress Reports and a souvenir book will have cost £1.65. The cost of any of the other areas can be as easily calculated.

Guest costs include accommodation for guests, travel, food, drink and other out of pocket expenses.

Tech covers lighting, public address systems and other expenses needed to make them work.

Printing includes PRs, the atcon publications, flyers, membership forms and the souvenir book.

Groats and Green Room covers refreshments given to programme participants and volunteers. Many people are needed for a wide range of jobs at the convention and these small tokens of appreciation help to make the convention run smoothly

Membership Services is a posh name for the costs associated with getting you to the convention with a badge and a programme pack.

Programme is what you come for and all the other expenditure might be put under this heading, but I have included here all the items that directly support it and do not obviously fall elsewhere. It includes the dance floor in the rotunda, the bouncy castle, the zombie paint, the evening entertainments and much much more. If you have a Paragon2 souvenir book, much of this expenditure is visible in the photos.

Other includes all the things I've not mentioned above: insurance, a room for the crèche, bank charges (credit card payments cost us nearly 4% of the payment) and other smallish amounts. It also includes money that we passed along to Contemplation; helping out at an early point with postage costs for a mailout to the members of other Eastercons to help with the rescue bid. I know that the Contemplation treasurer was grateful for the money at that time.

John Dowd

Blast from the Past

It's also traditional to list all the previous Eastercons: 'Eastercon' is the name commonly given to the British National Science Fiction Convention, an event held annually since 1952 and occasionally before then. The list here was created by Pat McMurray from research in the Memory Hole Annex convention materials archive, based on earlier work by Rob Hansen, provided in electronic form by Mark Plummer (to all of whom, many thanks). This text was kindly contributed by Bridget Bradshaw from the Concussion programme book.

Early Conventions

Name	Location	Year	Date	Guest
	Leeds	1937		Unknown
	London	1938		Unknown
	London	1939		Unknown
Midvention	Leicester	1943	Easter	None
Eastercon	London	1944	Easter	Professor A M Low

Eastercons

#	Name	Location	Year	Date	Guests
1	Whitcon	London	1948	Whitsun	A Bertram Chandler
2	Loncon	London	1949	Easter	None
*	Festivention	London	1951	Whitsun	Forrest & Wendayne Ackerman, Lyell Crane
3	London SF Con	London	1952	Whitsun	None
4	Coroncon	London	1953	Whitsun	None
5	Supermancon	Manchester	1954	Whitsun	John Russell Fearn
6	Cytricon	Kettering	1955	Easter	None
7	Cytricon II	Kettering	1956	Easter	None
8	Cytricon III	Kettering	1957	Easter	Unknown
9	Cytricon IV	Kettering	1958	Easter	Unknown
10	Brumcon	Birmingham	1959	Easter	Kenneth F Slater
11	London	London	1960	Easter	E J 'Ted' Carnell, Don Ford
12	LXIcon	Gloucester	1961	Easter	Kingsley Amis
13	Ronvention	Harrogate	1962	Easter	Tom Boardman

14	Bullcon	Peterborough	1963	Easter	Edmund Crispin
15	Repetercon	Peterborough	1964	Easter	Ted Tubb
16	Brumcon II	Birmingham	1965	Easter	Harry Harrison
17	Yarcon	Yarmouth	1966	Easter	Ron Whiting
18	Briscon	Bristol	1967	Easter	John Brunner
19	Thirdmancon	Buxton	1968	Easter	Ken Bulmer
20	Galactic Fair	Oxford	1969	Easter	Judith Merril
21	Scicon '70	London	1970	Easter	James Blish
22	Eastercon 22	Worcester	1971	Easter	Ethel Lindsay, Anne McCaffrey
23	Chessmancon	Chester	1972	Easter	Larry Niven
24	OMPAcon	Bristol	1973	Easter	Samuel R Delany
25	Tynecon	Newcastle	1974	Easter	Bob Shaw, Peter Weston
26	Seacon	Coventry	1975	Easter	Harry Harrison
27	Mancon 5	Manchester	1976	Easter	Peter Roberts, Robert Silverberg
28	Eastercon '77	Coventry	1977	Easter	John Bush
29	Skycon	Heathrow	1978	Easter	Roy Kettle, Robert Sheckley
30	Yorcon	Leeds	1979	Easter	Graham Charnock, Pat Charnock, Richard Cowper
31	Albacon	Glasgow	1980	Easter	Jim Barker, Colin Kapp
32	Yorcon II	Leeds	1981	Easter	Tom Disch, Dave Langford, Ian Watson
33	Channelcon	Brighton	1982	Easter	Angela Carter, John Sladek
34	Albacon II	Glasgow	1983	Easter	Marion Zimmer Bradley, Avedon Carol, James White
35	Seacon '84	Brighton	1984	Easter	Pierre Barbet, Waldemar Kumming, Josef Nesvadba, Chris Priest, Roger Zelazny
36	Yorcon III	Leeds	1985	Easter	Greg Benford, Linda Pickersgill
37	Albacon III	Glasgow	1986	Easter	Clive Barker, Joe Haldeman, John Jarrold, Pete Lyon
38	BECCON '87	Birmingham	1987	Easter	Chris Atkinson, Keith Roberts, Jane Gaskell
39	Follycon	Liverpool	1988	Easter	Gordon Dickson, Gwyneth Jones, Greg Pickersgill, Len Wein
40	Contrivance	Jersey	1989	Easter	Avedon Carol, Rob Hansen, M John Harrison, Don Lawrence, Anne McCaffrey

(Continued on page 58)

(Continued from page 57)

41	Eastcon	Liverpool	1990	Easter	Iain Banks, Anne Page, SMS
42	Speculation	Glasgow	1991	Easter	Rob Holdstock
43	Illumination	Blackpool	1992	Easter	Paul McAuley, Geoff Ryman, Pam Wells
44	Helicon	Jersey	1993	Easter	John Brunner, George R R Martin, Karel Thole, Larry van der Putte
45	Sou'Wester	Liverpool	1994	Easter	Diane Duane, Neil Gaiman, Barbara Hambly, Peter Morwood, Thog the Mighty
46	Confabulation	London	1995	Easter	Lois McMaster Bujold, Roger Robinson, Bob Shaw
47	Evolution	Heathrow	1996	Easter	Jack Cohen, Colin Greenland, Paul Kincaid, Maureen Speller, Bryan Talbot, Vernor Vinge
48	Intervention	Liverpool	1997	Easter	Brian Aldiss, Jon Bing, Octavia Butler, Dave Langford
49	Intuition	Manchester	1998	Easter	Ian McDonald, Martin Tudor, Connie Willis
50	ReConvene	Liverpool	1999	Easter	Peter S Beagle, John Clute, Tom Holt, Jeff Noon, Thog the Mighty, Ron Tiner
51	2Kon	Glasgow	2000	Easter	Bob Harris, Guy Gavriel Kay, Katherine Kurtz, Dr John Salthouse, Deborah Turner-Harris
52	Paragon	Hinckley	2001	Easter	Stephen Baxter, Claire Brialey, Lisanne Norman, Mark Plummer, Mike Scott Rohan
53	Helicon 2	Jersey	2002	Easter	Brian Stableford, Harry Turtledove, Peter Weston
54	Seacon 03	Hinckley	2003	Easter	Chris Baker, Christopher Evans, Mary Gentle
55	Concourse	Blackpool	2004	Easter	Mitchell Burnside Clapp, Danny Flynn, Sue Mason, Christopher Priest, Philip Pullman
56	Paragon2	Hinckley	2005	Easter	Eve & John Harvey, Ben Jeapes, Ken MacLeod, Richard Morgan, Robert Rankin
57	Concussion	Glasgow	2006	Easter	Brian Froud, Elizabeth Hand, M. John Harrison, Justina Robson, Ian Sorensen
58	Convoy	Liverpool	2007	cancelled	Scheduled guests: Judith Clute, Peter Dickinson, Robin McKinley, Sharyn November, TAFF delegate
58	Contemplation	Chester	2007	Easter	no guests

Into the Future ...

It's an interesting experience being at an Eastercon when you're chair of the next Eastercon. You're torn between trying to relax and enjoy the convention, spend time on the con desk to recruit as many members as possible, and also watching all the time to note what is working and what is not working so that you can blatantly steal the good ideas and hopefully avoid any mistakes that were made.

Looking back now, there are some high spots in the memory. Firstly, the food. I have never eaten better at a convention than I did at Contemplation - the hotel excelled themselves. Secondly, the ambience of the hotel - the committee made some good decisions about social space and took the bold step of making one of the function rooms a dedicated social space which created a pleasant non-smoking lounge. Thirdly, the programme. I got to see (okay, listen to) a lot of the programme from an unusual angle lying on the floor as a result of a back injury. If I enjoyed it from that angle, then it must have been good!

How will we manage to compare with Orbital? Too soon to say yet, but many things are looking good. It will be difficult to match the quality of Contemplation's catering. We're trying our best, but it's a tough act to follow.

Social space? We'll be taking a similar approach and using some function space for social use - the Radisson obviously has public areas and bars, but fans like to sit and socialise and that's just as important as all the other convention activities.

Programme? Contemplation had many quality programme items, but having to put the con together quickly placed a limit on quantity. (I'm still amazed that the committee produced such an enjoyable convention in so short a period of time.) Orbital will have the advantage of a longer run-up time and more function rooms - we hope to really impress you with both the quality and the quantity of the programming. Our programme team are brimming with ideas and would love to hear from you if there's an item you'd like to run.

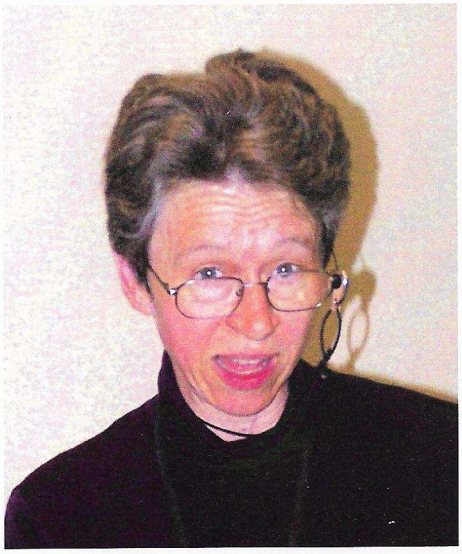
My favourite moment at Contemplation?

Hmm. I'm spoilt between my memory of the lovely singing at Sunday morning's 'Songs of Praise', and the stunningly excellent panel on 'Politics and Ethics in Ankh-Morpork' where the panel demonstrated both knowledge and considered thought, and made the audience feel fascinated rather than patronised.

I wish I could do it all over again.

I hope you'll feel the same way after Orbital 2008...

Judith Proctor
Chair, Orbital (Eastercon 2008)



The 60th British National Science Fiction Convention

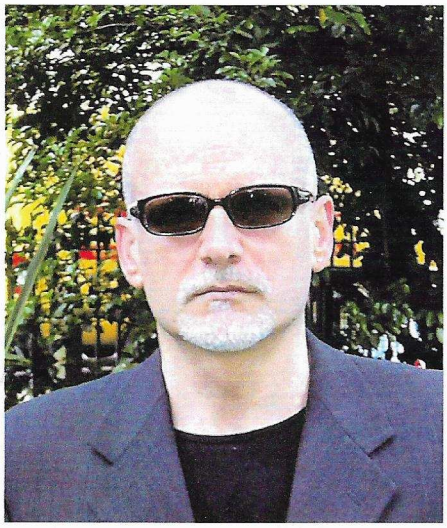
EASTERCON

LX

10th - 13th April 2009

Venue: The Cedar Court hotel, Bradford

GUESTS OF HONOUR

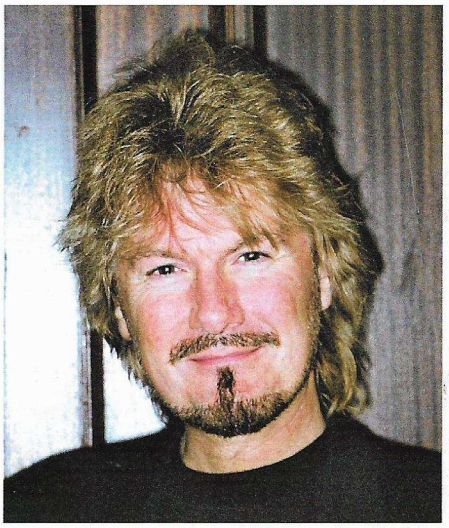


Jon Courtenay Grimwood

Author of *End Of The World Blues*, *9Tail Fox* and *The Arabesk Trilogy*

Tim Powers

Author of *Three Days to Never*, *On Stranger Tides* and *A Soul in a Bottle*



Dirk Maggs

Radio productions: Hitchhikers Teritary phase, Voyager, 2001: A Space Odyssey

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10th - 13th April 2009

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